

CITY OF



LANCASTER

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1954

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R. W. FARQUHAR, B.Sc.(Agri.), M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.



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Public Health Department,
Thurnham Street,
Lancaster.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health services of the City during 1954.

The general health of the community remained satisfactory, and with certain exceptions the low records of the various vital statistics have been maintained. Two of these are of special interest.

Firstly, the birth rate has declined considerably from its post-war peak in 1947 of 20·3 per 1,000 of the estimated population. From 1950 - 53 it showed a tendency to become stabilised at a level just sufficient for each generation to replace itself, but in 1954 the rate decreased further to 12·7. A rising death rate has accompanied the falling birth rate with the result that in the last two years the number of deaths has slightly exceeded the births.

Secondly, the infant mortality rate in 1954 was 44 per 1,000 live births. It is unwise to make comparisons on figures based on a single year, but the mean ~~death~~ birth rate for the quinquennial period, 1949 - 53, was 40, which does not compare favourably with the corresponding rates for the Administrative County (31·8) and for England and Wales (29·4).

Deaths from all causes numbered 689, a decrease of 82. The adjusted death rate of 13·5 per 1,000 of the estimated population may be compared with the crude rate of 11·3 for England and Wales, bearing in mind that the mortality in the County of Lancashire is consistently higher than for the country as a whole.

The toll of deaths due to accidents continues to increase, despite the increasing publicity given to the need for their prevention. Cancer was responsible for 117 deaths or 17% of the total. The suggested association between cancer of the lung and cigarette smoking has received increasing acceptance but there is no evidence of any real reduction in cigarette consumption.

There was a reduction in the number of notifications of infectious diseases including tuberculosis, 430 this year compared with 1,186 in 1953. For the sixth year running no cases of diphtheria have occurred. The virtual elimination of diphtheria and the dramatic reduction in mortality from scarlet fever, measles and whooping cough within the last two decades are well known. These changes have been brought about

by general public health measures resulting in improvements in social conditions, in nutritional standards and, more recently, by the use of anti-biotic drugs, greater attention to child welfare and successful immunisation campaigns. Although these four common diseases of childhood have lost most of their terrors there is no room for complacency ; with the exception of diphtheria there has been no sustained decrease in their incidence, either locally or nationally. In the last five years or so dysentery and food poisoning have shown a disturbing increase. The notification rate of respiratory tuberculosis has shown little evidence of a sustained decrease ; vigilance and the well-proven measures of prevention are still essential.

Slow but steady progress continues to be made towards improving the sanitary circumstances of the City. A great deal of painstaking work is done by the sanitary inspectors to maintain and improve living and working conditions. The health of the individual is influenced by many complex factors, physical, mental, social and environmental, but public health still depends essentially on pure water, safe food, clean air and adequate housing.

A home, however, is more than a house and human relationships raise many problems for the Medical Officer of Health. In the solution of these problems it is his duty to concert the action of local health, housing and welfare departments and, where necessary, to seek the co-operation of many individuals belonging to other social services, statutory or voluntary, such as the general practitioner, the psychiatrist, the hospital almoner, the children's officer, and the voluntary worker.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector in his report has drawn attention to the problems of atmospheric pollution, the detrimental effects of which have for so long been ignored in this country. Reference has already been made to Lancashire's high total mortality. The differential mortality rate as between the North and the South still amounts to 20%, and the immediate increase in deaths ascribed to respiratory diseases following the London smog in 1952 gave a very definite indication that part of this difference is caused by smoke. The air we breathe in the City is not as clean as it might be. The ordinary householder does not take much trouble to keep his chimneys clean and some factory managers have shown little interest in improving inefficient combustion plants ; the householder and industrialist alike may shortly be compelled to do so by impending legislation.

I express my appreciation of the conscientious work of the Health Department staff and my pleasure in the continued interest and support of the Health Committee in the work of the Department.

Yours faithfully,

R. W. FARQUHAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION “A”

**STATISTICS
AND
SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA**

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS — 1954

| | |
|--|--|
| Area (in acres) | 5,036 |
| Population (Registrar-General's Estimate) mid-year 1954 ... | 49,910 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books ... | 14,118 |
| Rateable Value | £341,784 |
| Sum represented by a Penny Rate | £1,372 |
| LIVE BIRTHS | <i>Males Females Total</i> |
| Legitimate | 324 275 599 |
| Illegitimate | 22 15 37 |
| | <u>346 290 636</u> |
| Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population... | 12·7 |
| STILL BIRTHS | <i>Males Females Total</i> |
| Legitimate | 9 5 14 |
| Illegitimate | — 1 1 |
| | <u>9 6 15</u> |
| Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... | 23 |
| DEATHS (Total) | <i>Males Females Total</i> |
| | 353 336 689 |
| Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population... | 13·8 |
| DEATHS FROM MATERNAL CAUSES | Nil |
| Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births | Nil |
| DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE | <i>Males Females Total</i> |
| Legitimate | 19 7 26 |
| Illegitimate | 1 1 2 |
| | <u>20 8 28</u> |
| Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ... | 44 |
| DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE | <i>Males Females Total</i> |
| Legitimate | 14 6 20 |
| Illegitimate | — 1 1 |
| | <u>14 7 21</u> |
| Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ... | 33 |
| DEATHS FROM CERTAIN SPECIFIED DISEASES | <i>Deaths Rate per 1,000 est. population</i> |
| Cancer (all forms) | 117 2·34 |
| Tuberculosis (respiratory) | 8 0·16 |

DEATHS IN THE CITY OF LANCASTER DURING 1954

CLASSIFIED BY CAUSE AND SEX

| <i>Causes</i> | <i>Males</i> | <i>Females</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|--|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Tuberculosis, Respiratory | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| Tuberculosis, Other | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Syphilitic Disease | 3 | — | 3 |
| Diphtheria | — | — | — |
| Whooping Cough | — | — | — |
| Meningococcal Infections... .. | — | — | — |
| Acute Poliomyelitis | — | — | — |
| Measles | — | — | — |
| Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach | 12 | 6 | 18 |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus | 19 | 2 | 21 |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Breast | — | 7 | 7 |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus | — | 5 | 5 |
| Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms | 29 | 34 | 63 |
| Leukaemia, Aleukaemia | — | 3 | 3 |
| Diabetes | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Vascular Lesions of Nervous System | 38 | 64 | 102 |
| Coronary Disease, Angina | 71 | 38 | 109 |
| Hypertension with Heart Disease | 8 | 9 | 17 |
| Other Heart Disease | 44 | 70 | 114 |
| Other Circulatory Disease | 14 | 11 | 25 |
| Influenza | 1 | 9 | 10 |
| Pneumonia | 18 | 11 | 29 |
| Bronchitis | 8 | 6 | 14 |
| Other Diseases of Respiratory System | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Nephritis and Nephrosis | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| Hyperplasia of Prostate | 3 | — | 3 |
| Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion | — | — | — |
| Congenital Malformations | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases | 32 | 30 | 62 |
| Motor Vehicle Accidents | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| All Other Accidents | 12 | 7 | 19 |
| Suicide | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| Homicide and Operations of War | 1 | — | 1 |
| TOTAL DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES | <u>353</u> | <u>336</u> | <u>689</u> |

DEATHS CLASSIFIED BY AGE GROUP AND LOCALITY — 1954

| WARD | 0-1 | 1-2 | 2-3 | 3-4 | 4-5 | 5-10 | 10-15 | 15-20 | 20-35 | 35-45 | 45-65 | 65-75 | 75-80 | 80 plus | Total |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|
| Castle ... | 3 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | 2 | 1 | 19 | 12 | 9 | 6 | 55 |
| John o'Gaunt ... | 5 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 16 | 26 | 11 | 13 | 74 |
| Park ... | 5 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | 1 | 6 | 56 | 53 | 41 | 38 | 202* |
| Queen's ... | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 13 | 13 | 34 | 18 | 61 |
| St. Anne's ... | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 29 |
| Scotforth ... | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 4 | 6 | 24 | 25 | 19 | 21 | 100 |
| Skerton East ... | 3 | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 16 | 25 | 8 | 11 | 66 |
| Skerton West ... | 7 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | 2 | 9 | 18 | 33 | 13 | 17 | 102 |
| TOTAL ... | 28 | 3 | — | 1 | — | 2 | 3 | 2 | 11 | 25 | 170 | 194 | 121 | 129 | 689 |

* Includes 155 deaths assigned to the City which occurred in Lancaster Moor Hospital and Bay View

LANCASTER VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1954 AND THE PERIOD 1949 - 1953

| | Infant Mortality | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-------|------------------------|-------|-------------|----|-----------------------|------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| | Live Births | | Deaths (all causes) | | Stillbirths | | Maternal Mortality | | Total | | | Neo-natal | |
| | | | | | | | | | No. of deaths regis- tered | No. of deaths regis- tered | Rate per 1,000 Live births | No. of deaths regis- tered | Rate per 1,000 Live births |
| Year : 1954 | 636 | *12.7 | 689 | *13.8 | 15 | 23 | — | — | 28 | 44 | 21 | 33 | |
| Year : 1953 | 744 | 14.8 | 771 | 15.3 | 22 | 29 | 3 | 3.92 | 24 | 32 | 18 | 24 | |
| 1952 | 738 | 14.6 | 652 | 12.9 | 13 | 17 | 1 | 1.33 | 32 | 43 | 26 | 35 | |
| 1951 | 730 | 14.3 | 643 | 12.6 | 19 | 25 | 1 | 1.34 | 28 | 38 | 21 | 29 | |
| 1950 | 770 | 14.9 | 611 | 11.8 | 12 | 15 | 1 | 1.28 | 38 | 49 | 24 | 31 | |
| 1949 | 827 | 16.2 | 598 | 11.7 | 20 | 24 | 1 | 1.18 | 32 | 39 | — | — | |
| Average 5 years 1949 - 1953 | — | 15.0 | — | 12.9 | — | 22 | — | 1.81 | — | 40 | — | — | |

*Adjusted live birth-rate (comparability factor 1.03) = 13.1 per 1,000.
do. death-rate (comparability factor 0.98) = 13.5 per 1,000.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1954

Birth and Death Rates for England and Wales, the Administrative County of Lancaster,
160 Great Towns, 160 Smaller Towns and Lancaster M.B. for the year, 1954

| | | ENGLAND AND WALES | 160 GREAT TOWNS | 160 SMALLER TOWNS | ADMIN. COUNTY OF LANCASTER | LANCASTER M.B. |
|---------------------------------------|-----|--|--|--|--|--|
| ESTIMATED HOME POPULATION Mid 1954 | | 44,274,000 | 23,229,690 | 5,786,990 | 2,051,000 †2,052,270 | 49,910 |
| | | No. Crude Rate per 1,000 home pop'n | No. Crude Rate per 1,000 home pop'n | No. Crude Rate per 1,000 home pop'n | No. Crude Rate per 1,000 home pop'n | No. Crude Rate per 1,000 home pop'n |
| BIRTHS | | | | | | |
| Live births | ... | 673,212 15.2 | 353,584 15.2 | 86,452 14.9 | 29,253 { 14.25 14.82(a) | 636 { 12.7 13.1 (a) |
| Stillbirths | ... | 16,130 { 0.36 23.4 (b) | 8,448 { 0.36 23.3 (b) | 2,123 { 0.37 24.0 (b) | 799 { 0.39 27 (b) | 15 { 0.31 23 (b) |
| DEATHS | | | | | | |
| All causes | ... | 501,878 11.3 | 257,382 11.1 | 65,646 11.3 | 25,946 { 12.64 12.89(a) | 689 { 13.8 13.5 (a) |
| Tuberculosis (all forms) | ... | 7,899 0.18 | 4,602 0.20 | 1,013 0.18 | 337 0.16 | 10 0.20 |
| Respiratory | ... | 7,069 0.16 | * * | * * | 293 0.14 | 8 0.16 |
| Non-respiratory | ... | 830 0.02 | * * | * * | 44 0.02 | 2 0.04 |
| Cancer (all forms) | ... | 90,099 2.04 | * * | * * | 4,176 2.03 | 117 2.34 |
| Lung, bronchus | ... | 16,330 0.37 | 9,913 0.43 | 1,988 0.34 | 708 0.34 | 21 0.42 |
| Other cancer | ... | 73,769 1.67 | * * | * * | 3,468 1.69 | 96 1.92 |
| Maternal Mortality (total) | ... | 478 0.69(b) | * * | * * | 27 0.90(b) | Nil Nil |
| Maternal causes (exc'd g abortion) | ... | 402 0.58(b) | * * | * * | 19 0.63(b) | Nil Nil |
| Due to abortion... | ... | 76 0.11(b) | * * | * * | 8 0.27(b) | Nil Nil |
| Infant Mortality | ... | 17,098 25.5 (c) | 8,907 25.2 (c) | 2,300 26.6 (c) | 846 29 (d) | 28 44 (d) |
| Neo-natal Mortality | ... | 11,944 17.7 (c) | * * | * * | 604 21 (d) | 21 33 (d) |

NOTE.—Figures other than those for Lancaster M.B. and the Administrative County are provisional only and are based on the Registrar-General's Quarterly Returns.

(a) Adjusted rate for purposes of comparison with adjusted rate of any other area or crude rate for England and Wales.

(b) Per 1,000 total (live and still) births. (c) Per 1,000 related live births. (d) Per 1,000 live births.

†Specially constructed population for calculation of birth and death-rates. *Not available.

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The Registrar-General's estimate of the civilian population for the City at mid-year 1954 was 49,910, compared with 51,661 in 1951, and 43,649 in 1931.

The 1954 figure represents a decrease of 1,206 or 2·4% on the 1951 census population of 51,661, and the present population only exceeds that of 1939 by 1,900 (approximately). It should be noted (page 11) that both in 1953 and 1954 the number of deaths exceeded the number of births.

Births

In 1954 there were 636 registered live births assignable to the City of Lancaster, representing a live birth rate of 12·7 per 1,000 of the estimated population. In order to compare local and national birth and death rates an adjustment must be made to the former to allow for differences in age and sex distribution. The adjusted live birth rate for Lancaster in 1954 was 13·10 per 1,000, which may be compared with the crude rate for England and Wales of 15·2. Locally the birth rate, after reaching a post-war peak of 20·3 in 1947, is still on the downward trend.

Of the 636 live births 37 were illegitimate, equivalent to 5·8% of the total. During the previous year illegitimate births amounted to 38 out of 744, or 5·1%.

Deaths

Total deaths in the City in 1954 numbered 689 compared with 771 in the previous year, the corresponding crude rates per 1,000 population being 13·8 in 1954 and 15·3 in 1953. The rate for England and Wales in 1954 was 11·3.

The table on page 9 shows the causes of deaths classified under the 36 main headings used by the Registrar-General, but the relative importance of the principal causes may be more clearly seen from the table below :

| | 1953 | | 1954 | |
|--|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| | No. of Deaths | % of Total | No. of Deaths | % of Total |
| Heart and Circulatory Diseases | 293 | 38·01 | 265 | 38·46 |
| Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System | 113 | 14·65 | 102 | 14·80 |
| Cancer (including Leukaemia) | 130 | 16·86 | 117 | 16·98 |
| Respiratory Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) | 64 | 8·30 | 61 | 8·86 |
| Violence (including motor vehicle accidents) | 24 | 3·11 | 32 | 4·65 |
| Diseases of the Digestive System | 11 | 1·43 | 13 | 1·89 |
| Diseases of the Kidney and Prostate | 9 | 1·17 | 11 | 1·60 |
| Tuberculosis (all forms) | 9 | 1·17 | 12 | 1·75 |
| Infective Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) | 9 | 1·17 | 6 | 0·87 |
| All other causes | 109 | 14·13 | 70 | 10·14 |
| TOTAL | 771 | 100·00 | 689 | 100·00 |

Maternal Mortality

In 1954 there were no deaths from maternal causes, as against 3 ascribed to pregnancy, childbirth and abortion in the previous year. As will be seen from the table on page 11 the average maternal mortality rate over the period 1949 - 53 was 1·81 per 1,000 live births, a figure which is considerably above the rate of 0·83 over the same period for England and Wales.

Infant Mortality

The number of deaths of children under one year of age was 28 giving an infant mortality rate for 1954 of 44 per 1,000 live births. The rate for 1954 for England and Wales was 25·5 and for the Administrative County of Lancashire 29·0.

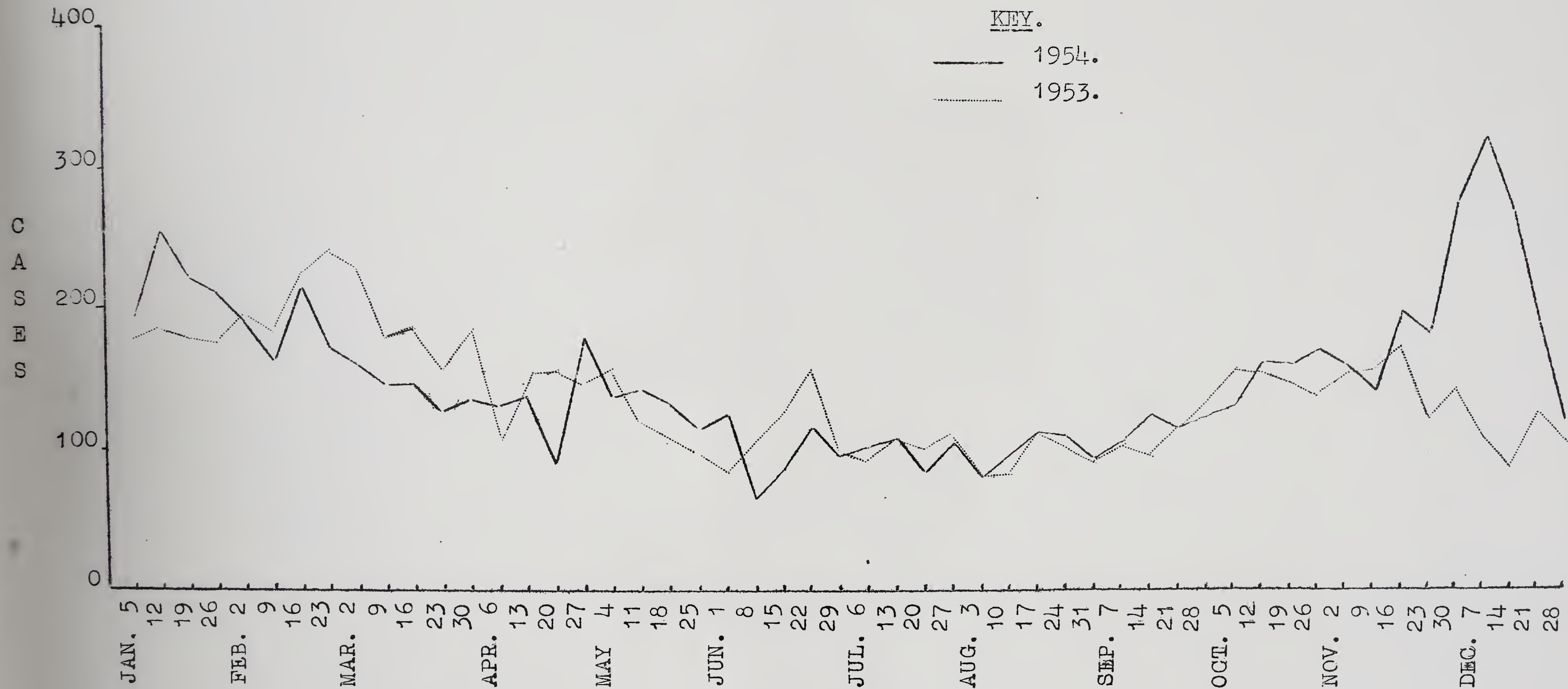
Taking the average infant mortality rates over the preceding five years (1949 - 53), the figure for Lancaster was 40, which compares unfavourably with the corresponding average rates of 31·8 for the Administrative County and 29·4 for England and Wales.

In the table below the causes of death have been analysed, so far as is possible, under various age groups from one day up to one year of age.

| Cause | Under 1 day | 1-7 days | 1-2 weeks | 2-3 weeks | 3-4 weeks | Total under 4 weeks | 1-3 months | 3-6 months | 6-9 months | 9-12 months | TOTAL |
|---|-------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------|
| Non-respiratory Tuberculosis (other forms) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| Influenza | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| Pneumonia (including pneumonia of the newborn) | - | 3 | 2 | - | - | 5 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 7 |
| Congenital Malformations | 2 | - | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | 3 |
| Birth Injuries | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| Post-natal Asphyxia and Atelectasis | 7 | - | - | - | - | 7 | - | - | - | - | 7 |
| Other diseases peculiar to early infancy | 2 | 3 | - | - | - | 5 | - | - | - | - | 5 |
| All other causes | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | 2 |
| TOTALS... .. | 12 | 7 | 2 | - | - | 21 | 2 | 4 | 1 | - | 28 |

WEEKLY INCIDENCE OF SICKNESS - WORKING POPULATION.

LANCASTER AREA.



Neo-Natal Mortality

The number of neo-natal deaths (infants under four weeks of age) assigned to the City in 1954 was 21, equivalent to a mortality rate of 33 per 1,000 live births. The 21 neo-natal deaths amounted to 75% of all infant deaths.

The classification of causes of death provided by the Registrar-General includes " other defined and ill-defined diseases " but an attempt has been made to break down this large group, using information available in local records. Of the 21 deaths at ages under 4 weeks, 7 or 33·3% were classified to post-natal asphyxia and atelectasis, 2 or 9·5% to congenital malformations, 2 or 9·5% to birth injuries, 5 or 23·8% to infections of the newborn, and 5 or 23·8% to other diseases peculiar to early infancy. No less than 14 of these 21 babies were born prematurely.

Morbidity — Weekly Incidence of Sickness

I am indebted to the Manager of the local office of the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance for the information supplied below. Since 1953 he has supplied a weekly return of the figures of new claims to sickness benefits made by the working population in the Lancaster area. These records cover the Lunesdale Rural District and part of the Lancaster Rural District, as well as Lancaster itself. This year the peak period occurred in early December, when 321 first certificates of sickness were submitted in one week.

INCIDENCE OF SICKNESS — WORKING POPULATION, 1954

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|----|---|-----|-------|----|---|-----|-------|----|---|-----|------|----|---|-----|
| Jan. | 5 | — | 191 | April | 6 | — | 131 | July | 6 | — | 103 | Oct. | 5 | — | 132 |
| | 12 | — | 256 | | 13 | — | 138 | | 13 | — | 109 | | 12 | — | 164 |
| | 19 | — | 222 | | 20 | — | 90 | | 20 | — | 84 | | 19 | — | 162 |
| | 26 | — | 210 | | 27 | — | 181 | | 27 | — | 107 | | 26 | — | 172 |
| Feb. | 2 | — | 191 | May | 4 | — | 138 | Aug. | 3 | — | 82 | Nov. | 2 | — | 163 |
| | 9 | — | 162 | | 11 | — | 142 | | 10 | — | 97 | | 9 | — | 145 |
| | 16 | — | 217 | | 18 | — | 136 | | 17 | — | 113 | | 16 | — | 200 |
| | 23 | — | 172 | | 25 | — | 117 | | 24 | — | 111 | | 23 | — | 183 |
| Mar. | 2 | — | 159 | June | 1 | — | 128 | | 31 | — | 95 | | 30 | — | 275 |
| | 9 | — | 147 | | 8 | — | 67 | Sept. | 7 | — | 108 | Dec. | 7 | — | 321 |
| | 16 | — | 148 | | 15 | — | 88 | | 14 | — | 128 | | 14 | — | 272 |
| | 23 | — | 128 | | 22 | — | 119 | | 21 | — | 117 | | 21 | — | 192 |
| | 30 | — | 136 | | 29 | — | 98 | | 28 | — | 124 | | 28 | — | 119 |

Average per week = 150

SECTION “ B ”

**GENERAL PROVISION
OF
HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA**

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

The main work of the Public Health Department concerns environmental health and the control of infectious diseases, and detailed reports on these services, which are directly controlled by the City Council, will be found in Section " C " and Section " D."

The present section is related to those health services which concern mainly the personal health and welfare of the individual rather than public health and the community. Although administered by statutory authorities other than the City Council, it is felt that some brief account of the nature and scope of these services will be of interest to the Health Committee, and indeed to the general public.

Any review concerning the general provision of health services in the area should of necessity cover all three branches of the National Health Service. Lack of space, however, precludes more than a brief mention of two of these, namely, the General Practitioner Services and the Hospital and Specialist Services, so that this section is confined mainly to the health services provided by the Local Health Authority, i.e. by the Lancashire County Council.

Local Health Services under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946

Divisional Health Committee No. 2 of the Lancashire County Council are responsible for the day-to-day administration of the following health services, which are available to the citizens of Lancaster as well as to the inhabitants of the surrounding districts.

1. *Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Young Children* including the provision of ante-natal clinics, post-natal care, dental care, child welfare centres and day nurseries, as well as special arrangements for premature babies, unmarried mothers, convalescent care, etc.
2. *Domiciliary Midwifery.*
3. *Health Visiting.*
4. *Home Nursing.*
5. *Home Helps.*
6. *Immunisation and Vaccination.*
7. *Ambulance Service.*

8. *Mental Health Service*, including community care and after-care of persons suffering from mental deficiency, as well as those suffering from mental illness.
9. *Prevention of Illness, and Care and After-Care of Persons suffering from Illness*, including health education, convalescent care, prevention and after-care of tuberculosis, provision of nursing equipment and apparatus.

Welfare Services — National Assistance Act, 1948

The following welfare services are also administered by the Divisional Health Committee :—

1. *Residential Accommodation*. For persons in need of care and attention not otherwise available to them, accommodation is provided either at Bay View, Lancaster, or at the Empress Hostel, Morecambe.
2. *Temporary Accommodation*. In case of urgent need, e.g., eviction, temporary shelter is provided at Bay View, Lancaster, separate accommodation being provided for children.
3. *Reception Centre*. Part of the accommodation at Bay View is used for the reception of persons without a settled way of life, by arrangement between the County Council and the National Assistance Board.
4. *Handicapped Persons*. For persons who are blind, or deaf, or otherwise substantially and permanently handicapped, certain welfare provisions are made through the County Medical Officer of Health.

School Health Service — Education Act, 1944

The school health service is controlled centrally by a committee of the County Council, and for the local administration of this service the divisional medical officer is responsible to the County Medical Officer of Health.

In addition to the routine medical and dental inspections of children carried out in the City schools, various clinics, some attended by visiting specialists, are provided for the correction or treatment of certain defects.

The admission of handicapped pupils to special schools is arranged through the County Medical Officer of Health. Medical supervision of children under the care of the Children's Department is also undertaken by the school medical officers. Details relating to local clinics are set out in the table below :—

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES — LANCASTER CITY

| | MON. | TUES. | WED. | THUR. | FRI. | SAT. |
|---|---|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| I ANTE-NATAL (1) Thurnham Hse ... (2) Ryelands Hse ... | — — | — — | — — | — 9.30 - 11.30 f'tn'tly | 2-4 p.m. f'tn'tly | — — |
| II CHILD WELFARE (1) Thurnham Hse ... (2) Ryelands Hse ... (3) Cong. Church Hala Estate ... | — 2-4 p.m. p.m. 2-4† | — — — — | 2-4 p.m. — — — | 2-4 p.m. — — — | — — — — | — — — — |
| III DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION (1) Thurnham Hse ... (2) Ryelands Hse ... | } Arranged as required, usually fortnightly | | | | | |
| IV MINOR AILMENTS (1) Thurnham Hse ... (2) Ryelands Hse ... | a.m. 9-10.30 9-10.30 | — — — | a.m. 9-10.30 9-10.30 | — — — | a.m. 9-10.30 9-10.30 | — — — |
| V INSPECTION CLINIC Thurnham House ... | — | — | — | — | — | 9.30-11.30 a.m. except first Saturday of month |
| VI EAR, NOSE AND THROAT Thurnham House ... | — | — | — | — | — | 9.30-11.30 a.m. first Saturday of month only |
| VII OPHTHALMIC Thurnham House ... | 9.30-12 noon by ap- p'tm't | — | — | — | — | — |
| VIII ORTHOPAEDIC Thurnham House ... | — | By ap- p'tm't | — | By ap- p'tm't | — | — |
| IX SPEECH THERAPY Ryelands House ... | — | — | By ap- p'tm't | By ap- p'tm't | — | — |
| X DENTAL Thurnham House ... | Monday to Friday 9.30 a.m. -4.00 p.m. daily by arrangement | | | | | |

†Health Visitor only.

Laboratory Facilities

The bacteriological examination of milk, water and ice cream is carried out by Dr. Rickards and his staff in the Department of Pathology at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary. Specimens of faeces, nose and throat swabs, blood, etc., from individual patients, and samples of suspect food are also sent to this laboratory for examination, and I am indebted to Dr. Rickards for numerous laboratory reports and much helpful advice in connection with epidemiological investigations. The chemical analysis of water, as well as of milk and foodstuffs taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, is performed by the County Analyst, Dr. Walker, whose willing co-operation is also appreciated.

Maternity and Nursing Homes

The following maternity and nursing homes in Lancaster and district are registered with the County Council, under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Westhaven Nursing Home, 2/3, Laurel Bank, Lancaster.

Beds : 8 maternity, 2 medical.

Caton Green Nursing Home, Caton Green, Nr. Lancaster.

Beds : 27 medical, 5 surgical.

Co-ordination of Health Services

The structure of the National Health Service, with responsibilities shared by separate authorities, renders it essential that there should be effective arrangements for securing integration. Locally this is ensured by cross representation on committees and by liaison between officers of the different services. Co-ordination of the school health service, the other health services of the County Council and the health services administered by the City Council, is facilitated by reason of the fact that your Medical Officer of Health acts also as Divisional Medical Officer and School Medical Officer. Co-operation with local general practitioners is secured by frequent exchange of information in relation to infectious diseases, housing, domiciliary nursing services, welfare of aged and other handicapped persons, etc. There is close liaison also with all local hospitals, and I am grateful to the administrative, medical and nursing staffs for much useful information supplied in connection with the after-care of discharged patients. Every effort is made also to co-operate with the numerous voluntary organisations, which play such a useful part in filling the gaps still apparent in the National Health Service.

SECTION “ C ”

**PREVALENCE OF
AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES**

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

General Incidence

During 1954 infectious diseases as a whole were much less prevalent than in 1953. Detailed information concerning the number of cases notified, recorded under various age groups, will be found on page 27. Tables showing the incidence of and mortality from tuberculosis will be found on pages 28 and 29. The following summary shows the comparative incidence of the principle infectious diseases over the past seven years.

| | 1954 | 1953 | Averages of 5 years 1952-1948 |
|-------------------------------------|------|------|-------------------------------------|
| Scarlet Fever | 19 | 149 | 89 |
| Diphtheria | — | — | 0.2 |
| Whooping Cough | 133 | 59 | 149 |
| Measles | 179 | 636 | 354 |
| Pneumonia | 12 | 35 | 61 |
| Tuberculosis | 41 | 64 | 63 |
| Poliomyelitis | 8 | — | 5 |
| Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever... .. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Dysentery | 20 | 50 | 87 |
| Food Poisoning | 5 | 180 | 3 |
| Other Diseases | 14 | 11 | 22 |
| TOTAL | 432 | 1186 | 837 |

Measles

This common disease of childhood continues to manifest periodic exacerbations. Following the 1,255 cases recorded in 1951 only 30 cases were notified in 1952, but in 1953 the incidence of measles again increased to 636, falling once more to 179 in 1954.

Whooping Cough

Whooping cough was more prevalent, with 133 cases notified as against 59 in the previous year. Because of the dramatic decline in mortality from diphtheria, scarletina, etc. in recent years the relative importance of whooping cough amongst the common infectious diseases of childhood has increased. The efficacy of whooping cough vaccine, however, is now receiving wider recognition, and a combined diphtheria-pertussis prophylactic, which confers a high degree of immunity against both diseases, is becoming increasingly popular since the number of injections is reduced.

Diphtheria

For the sixth year running no cases of diphtheria have occurred in Lancaster, and the disease has now become so rare that many young parents do not realise how dangerous it can be. We cannot afford to relax our efforts to maintain a high rate of immunisation against diphtheria, for local and national statistics show that the proportion of children accepting this proved protective measure is still well below that considered necessary to eradicate the disease from the community. Of the children under the age of five in this City it is estimated that two-fifths of them have not been immunised, and the parents of these young children should realise that diphtheria still kills, and that it is these unprotected children who will contract the disease should they come into contact with it.

Immunisation is a free service, available either from the family doctor or through the school clinic, and before a child reaches its first birthday it should receive two injections with an interval of one month between the two. Immunity should be maintained by further single injections at 4 - 5 year intervals during school life.

In the table below the numbers of Lancaster children immunised during the last three years are compared.

LANCASTER CITY — IMMUNISATION CARRIED OUT
1954, 1953, and 1952

| Number of individuals who completed a full course of primary immunisation during the period | | | | | | | | | | Number of individuals who were given a re-inforcement injection, i.e., subsequent to complete course | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------------|-----|-------|------------------|---------------------|--|-----|-------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Age at final injection | | | | | | | | | | Age Group | | | | |
| 0-1 | 1-2 | 2-3 | 3-4 | 4-5 | Total under 5 yrs. | 5-9 | 10-14 | Total 5-14 years | Total 15yrs. & over | 0-4 | 5-9 | 10-14 | Total under 15 yrs. | Total 15yrs. & over |
| YEAR 1954 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 160 | 249 | 47 | 24 | 16 | 496 | 43 | 10 | 53 | 1 | 34 | 430 | 583 | 1047 | 73 |
| YEAR 1953 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 189 | 237 | 37 | 19 | 16 | 498 | 47 | 16 | 63 | — | 47 | 399 | 739 | 1185 | 9 |
| YEAR 1952 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 225 | 264 | 47 | 30 | 19 | 585 | 28 | 30 | 58 | — | 76 | 479 | 475 | 1030 | 1 |

Poliomyelitis

After an interval of two years infantile paralysis reappeared in the City, 8 cases having been notified during 1954. Of these only 3 developed paralysis of slight to moderate degree, resulting in some functional limitation.

Dysentery

Over the past five years there has been an apparent gradual decline in the incidence of bacterial dysentery, but this particular bowel infection is difficult to differentiate clinically from other forms of diarrhoea, and it is doubtful whether the cases notified to the Public Health Department do, in fact, represent its true incidence. During the year 1954 only 20 cases were officially notified as compared with 50 in 1943 and 113 in 1950. In nearly all cases the casual agent was identified as *Sh. Sonnei*, although the Flexner type again appeared in a few institutional cases.

Food Poisoning

Following two large outbreaks of *Salmonella* food poisoning in the summer of 1953, in which 180 known cases occurred, a further 5 cases were officially notified to the Department during 1954.

In April and May a small outbreak due to *S. typhi murium* appeared in a local hospital, in which 3 clinical cases with prominent symptoms of gastro-enteritis appeared. All 3 cases proved fatal. In addition, 6 other patients and 2 members of the ward staff contracted the infection but, in the absence of symptoms, were regarded as symptomless excretors or contact carriers. As the result of the immediate measures taken to prevent its spread the infection was quickly brought under control, and the Department lent its co-operation in the follow up of contacts who were discharged to their own homes.

In recent years the incidence of food poisoning has increased throughout the country generally, and institutions, hotels and shops, have been affected, as well as catering establishments such as canteens, restaurants and cafes. In closed communities the danger of cross infection is always present, and although food poisoning is not usually serious in itself, the result of this infection superimposed on an existing illness may be very serious.

Apart from the hospital incident two sporadic cases occurred in the general community towards the end of the year, one being due to *S. bredeney* and the other to *S. typhi murium*, but no further cases arose from these.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED DURING 1954

| DISEASE | AGE PERIOD — YEARS | | | | | | | | | | Cases Admit- ted to Hos- pital | Deaths |
|---|--------------------|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| | 0-1 | 1-3 | 3-5 | 5-10 | 10-15 | 15-25 | 25-45 | 45-65 | 65 and over | Age Un- known | Total | |
| Smallpox ... | — | 5 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 1 | — | — | — | — | 19 | — |
| Scarlet Fever ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 12 | — |
| Diphtheria ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — |
| Enteric or Typhoid Fever ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Paratyphoid Fever ... | — | 48 | 52 | 67 | 1 | 3 | — | — | — | — | 179 | — |
| Measles (excluding Rubella) | 13 | 29 | 50 | 37 | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 133 | — |
| Whooping Cough ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 4 | — |
| Acute Pneumonia (Primary and Influenzal) | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 12 | 1 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ... | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Meningococcal Infection ... | — | 2 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | — |
| Acute Poliomyelitis: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Paralytic ... | 1 | — | 1 | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | — |
| Non-Paralytic ... | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 4 | — |
| Acute Encephalitis: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Infective ... | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| Post Infective ... | — | 3 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 5 | — | 20 | — |
| Dysentery ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 3 | 3 | — | 7 | — |
| Erysipelas ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Malaria (contracted in England and Wales) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Malaria (contracted abroad) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Food Poisoning ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 3 | — | 5 | 3 |
| TOTAL ... | 23 | 88 | 111 | 113 | 6 | 11 | 10 | 13 | 15 | 1 | 391 | 4 |

Tuberculosis

The number of new cases of respiratory tuberculosis notified in 1954, at 33, was the lowest recorded since 1938 and was 25 less than in the previous year.

Non-respiratory notifications increased from 6 in 1953 to 8 in 1954.

In 1954, therefore, the notifications of all forms of tuberculosis numbered 41, a total well below the average of the ten year period 1945 - 54. As will be seen from the graph (pages 28 and 29) this constituted the lowest level of new cases ever recorded in Lancaster City.

Comparative figures are given below :—

| YEAR | NEW CASES NOTIFIED | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------|
| | Respiratory | Non-respiratory | TOTAL |
| 1945 | 46 | 13 | 59 |
| 1946 | 52 | 9 | 61 |
| 1947 | 38 | 7 | 45 |
| 1948 | 66 | 11 | 77 |
| 1949 | 52 | 10 | 62 |
| 1950 | 46 | 9 | 55 |
| 1951 | 57 | 12 | 69 |
| 1952 | 48 | 6 | 54 |
| 1953 | 58 | 6 | 64 |
| 1954 | 33 | 8 | 41 |
| TOTAL | 496 | 91 | 587 |
| Mean (1945-54) ... | 49.6 | 9.1 | 58.7 |

The following table gives a summary of the known cases of tuberculosis in the City as at 31st December, 1954 :—

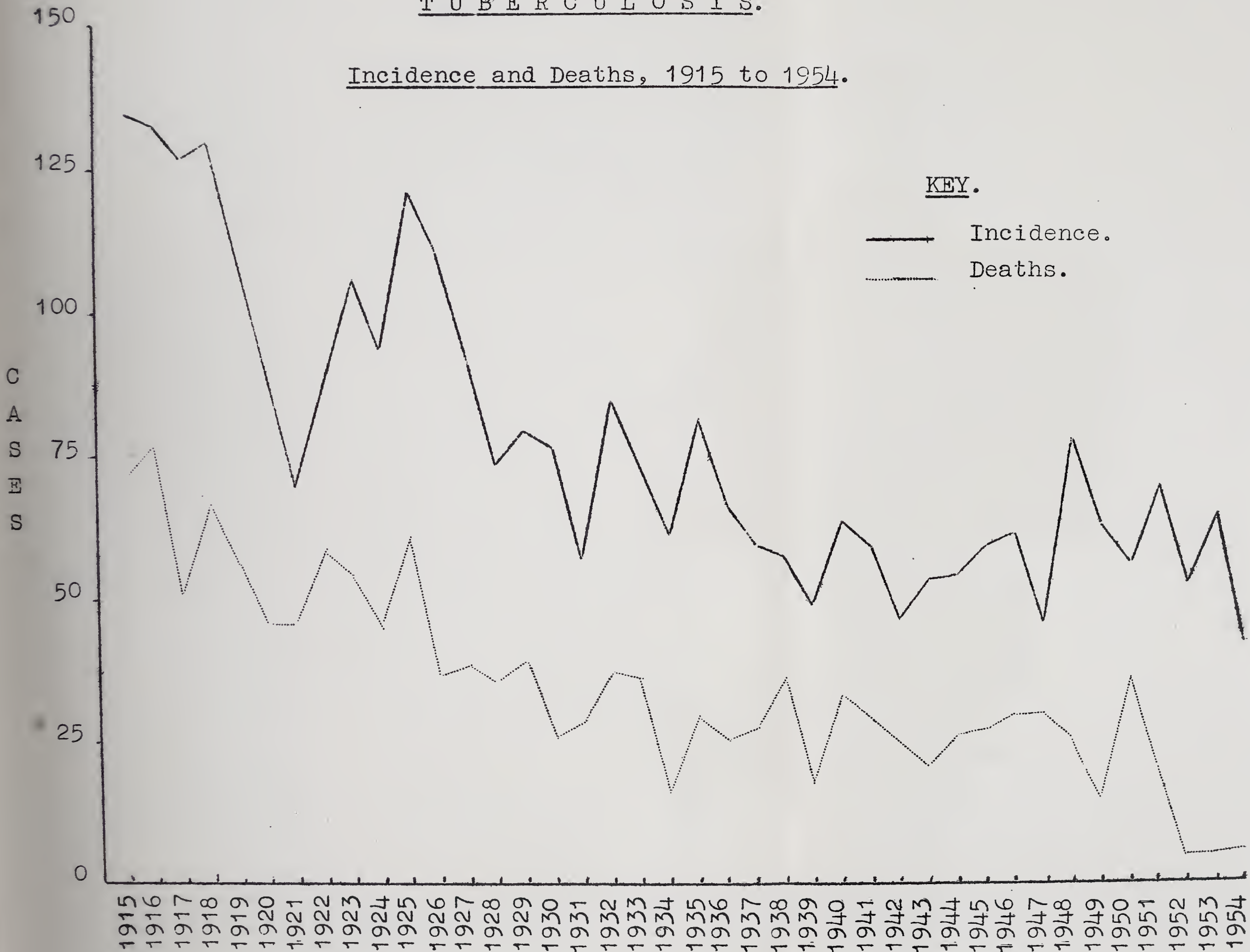
| | | | | | | Males | Females | Total |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------|------------|------------|
| Respiratory | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 148 | 102 | 250 |
| Non-respiratory | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19 | 29 | 48 |
| | | | | | | <u>167</u> | <u>131</u> | <u>298</u> |

T U B E R C U L O S I S.

Incidence and Deaths, 1915 to 1954.

KEY.

— Incidence.
..... Deaths.



The table below shows the numbers of deaths registered and the death rates recorded during the years 1945 to 1954 in the City of Lancaster.

| Year | Respiratory Tuberculosis | | Non-respiratory Tuberculosis | | All Forms | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| | Deaths | Rate per1,000 pop. | Deaths | Rate per1,000 pop. | Deaths | Rate per1,000 pop. |
| 1945 | 17 | 0.36 | 10 | 0.21 | 27 | 0.57 |
| 1946 | 25 | 0.50 | 4 | 0.08 | 29 | 0.58 |
| 1947 | 27 | 0.53 | 2 | 0.04 | 29 | 0.57 |
| 1948 | 22 | 0.44 | 3 | 0.06 | 25 | 0.50 |
| 1949 | 14 | 0.27 | 1 | 0.02 | 15 | 0.29 |
| 1950 | 23 | 0.44 | 3 | 0.06 | 26 | 0.50 |
| 1951 | 19 | 0.37 | 1 | 0.02 | 20 | 0.39 |
| 1952 | 7 | 0.14 | 1 | 0.02 | 8 | 0.16 |
| 1953 | 7 | 0.14 | 2 | 0.04 | 9 | 0.18 |
| 1954 | 8 | 0.16 | 2 | 0.04 | 10 | 0.20 |
| Mean of 10 years (1945-54) | 16.9 | 0.33 | 2.9 | 0.06 | 19.8 | 0.39 |

In 1954 the number of deaths from respiratory tuberculosis assignable to the City was 8, or 1 more than in the preceding year. The resultant death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was 0.16, a figure equal to the national rate but slightly higher than that for the Administrative County.

The 2 deaths from non-respiratory tuberculosis resulted in a mortality rate of 0.04 per 1,000.

In each of the last 3 years the total mortality rate from tuberculosis has been markedly lower than the average over the ten year period 1945 - 54, the decrease being approximately 50%.

The decline in mortality may mean an increase in the total number of potential infectors, and clearly such orthodox methods of prevention as tracing the source of infection, the supervision of contacts, and educating the public in the importance of personal hygiene and the dangers of raw milk, supplemented by the newer measures such as mass radiography and B.C.G. vaccination, are still of vital importance in checking the dissemination of the disease.

At present the limited protection afforded by B.C.G. vaccination is available to selected groups only, namely, hospital nurses, medical students, and young Mantoux negative children in contact with an open case. During 1954, 70 persons in Lancaster were tested as regards suitability for vaccination, and 54 of these were subsequently vaccinated.

SECTION “ D ”

**SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES
OF THE CITY**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR**

F. SHAW, D.P.A., M.R.San.I., A.M.I.S.E.

CITY OF LANCASTER — ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Under the Direction of the Chief Sanitary Inspector

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| HOUSING Inspection of Houses Preparation of reports on general housing conditions in the city. Repair of Houses Preparation of specifications and schedules of costs. Supervision of works. Execution of works in default of owners. Clearance, etc. of Unfit Houses Indication of areas needing re-planning and re-development. Clearance of the buildings from such areas. Demolition of single houses not included in areas. Closure of dwellings which it is not practicable to demolish. Valuation of Houses Valuation of houses to ascertain whether they are capable of repair at reasonable cost, etc. Estimation of future life of houses. Overcrowding Ascertainment and abatement of overcrowding. Common Lodging Houses Inspection and Registration. Houses Let in Lodgings Inspection and Registration. Rehousing Investigation into special housing needs which call for priority. Removals in connection with rehousing. Fumigation of household effects with HCN. | RATS AND MICE Destruction and infestation prevention. INSECT, ETC., PESTS Destruction and control. UPHOLSTERY, ETC. FILLINGS Supervision of premises where upholstery fillings are made or stored or used. Sampling such fillings for examination as to cleanliness. | MILK AND DAIRIES Supervision of distribution of milk. Inspection of dairies. Sampling of milk for : Adulteration. Keeping quality. Tubercle bacillo. Brucella Abortus. Pre-Licensing Inspection of : Pasteurising plants. Sterilising plants. Bottling establishments. Routine inspection of plants and premises. | GENERAL SANITATION Investigation into complaints. Abatement of nuisances. Water supplies, (purity and sufficiency of). Purity of swimming bath water. Inspection of camping sites. Drainage. Removals of accumulations of waste, and offensive matter. Rivers and Watercourses Investigation into pollution. Sewage Disposal Sewage disposal from isolated buildings not connected to the town's sewerage system. |
| FOOD AND DRUGS Examination and Sampling Examination of : Meat at time of slaughter. Meat in butchers' shops, etc. Food of all kinds in shops, stores, warehouses, etc. Supervision of the disposal of food condemned as unfit. Sampling of : Food and Drugs for analysis. Foods for bacteriological examination. Hygiene of Food Premises, etc.: Inspection of all premises used for the preparation, storage, handling and sale of food. Advice on layout, design and construction of food premises. Advice on equipment. | INSPECTION OF OTHER PREMISES, e.g.: Factories. Building and civil engineering sites. Workplaces. Shops. Offices. Places of Entertainment. Offensive Trade premises. Schools. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT Burial of the Dead. Arrangement for care of people living alone under insanitary conditions. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION Inspection of boiler, etc., plants. Observations of smoke from chimneys. Investigations generally into atmospheric pollution. | INFECTIOUS DISEASES Investigations into causes of spread. Disinfection of premises and articles. FOOD-BORNE INFECTIONS Investigations into causes. Collection of specimens for examination. | PET ANIMALS Inspection of pet animal shops. PORT HEALTH Inspection of crew's accommodation. Ship drinking water supplies. Rat and vermin destruction. Enquiries re infectious diseases and sickness amongst crews. Supervision of shellfish layings and collection grounds. |

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again it has been my pleasure to prepare this part of the Annual Report for 1954 dealing with the sanitary circumstances of the City. Environmental health work is rarely spectacular ; it involves many systematic and routine jobs such as the inspection and sampling of food, and the inspection of many types of buildings, for example, houses, factories, schools and places of entertainment. The many duties carried out by the Department are given in the table on page 32 opposite.

In February, 1954, we began, for the first time in the history of Lancaster, to measure the comparative degree of atmospheric pollution. Instruments were set up in different parts of the district, and although one cannot arrive at clear decisions from an investigation of such a short duration, it might be said that atmospheric conditions in Lancaster are better than many of the larger industrial areas, as is to be expected, but there are no grounds for complacency. A large proportion of the soot deposited in this City is preventable. Fuller information concerning air pollution is given on pages 38-40.

The decontrol of meat in July, 1954, placed heavy responsibilities on the Council to make adequate arrangements, at rather short notice, for the administration of the Abattoir and for the proper humane and hygienic slaughtering of animals. It was very pleasing indeed to find that the Council decided, immediately on decontrol becoming operative, to carry out extensive improvements at the Abattoir, not the least of these were the provision of an adequate hot water service and the installation of washhand basins and sinks in the slaughtering hall. An adequate supply of hot water has been needed at the Abattoir for many years.

Unfortunately, the same progress has not been made with regard to improving conditions in the Market Hall. Most of the food stalls are still without a supply of both hot and cold water and have no facilities whatsoever for washing hands.

Towards the end of 1954, the housing survey required under section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 was commenced, and proposals for dealing with slum property in the City will already have been considered by your Committee when this report is published.

Two of the District Sanitary Inspectors (Mr. T. Dean and Mr. F. C. Weston) left Lancaster during 1954 to take up other appointments. We were, however, in view of the very great shortage of sanitary inspectors throughout the country, very fortunate in being able to replace these two Officers. This was in no small part due to the wisdom of your Committee in anticipating new salary scales. Most other local authorities are desperately short of sanitary inspectors and many of them are trying to carry out their functions with a staff 50% or more below strength. It is extremely unlikely that these authorities will be able to make the housing survey required by the Housing Repairs and Rents Act.

Information concerning the types of inspections made, the sampling of food and many other varied duties carried out by the Department are given, as usual, in the body of the report.

I would be lacking in understanding if I did not express my appreciation of the sympathetic and co-operative spirit shown by your Committee throughout the year.

It is a pleasure to place once again on record the loyal and willing co-operation of the whole staff of the Department.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

FREDERICK SHAW,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

WORK OF SANITARY INSPECTORS

Closet Accommodation at the end of 1954

Privy Middens—No. of middens, 1. No. of closets attached to these middens, 1. No. of pail closets, 4. No. of dry ashpits, 6. No. of movable ashbins, 14,800. No. of houses on water carriage system, 14,112. No. of fresh water closets, 18,238. No. of waste water closets, nil. Conversions during 1954, nil.

Sanitary Inspections during 1954

No. of premises visited, 10,644. Defects or nuisances—No. discovered, 778; No. abated, 676. No. of notices served—Informal, 320; Statutory, 156. Legal proceedings, 11.

Types of Inspections and Visits

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Atmospheric pollution ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 46 |
| Complaints investigated | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 744 |
| Rodent or insect pest infestation | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 53 |
| Infectious disease enquiries | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 46 |
| Food inspection | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 229 |
| Miscellaneous Public Health inspections | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 826 |
| Miscellaneous visits | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,511 |
| Offensive trade premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 |
| Butchers' shops and stores | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 90 |
| Bakehouses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 207 |
| Ice cream premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 182 |
| Fish fryers' premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 199 |
| Food preparing premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 142 |
| Other food premises, general | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 306 |
| Dairies | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 43 |
| Public Houses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Markets | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Restaurants | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 145 |
| Shops (Shops Act) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 59 |
| Theatres, cinemas, etc.... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 41 |
| Slaughterhouses... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 763 |
| Snack bars, soda fountains, etc. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 105 |
| Pet shops | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Combustion plants | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| Work places | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 |
| Food vans | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Schools Meals Service | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Canteens | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21 |

Improvements and Repairs Effected Following Action by the Sanitary Inspectors

Repairs to Dwelling Houses

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Roofs repaired or stripped and renewed | ... | ... | ... | ... | 55 |
| External walls re-pointed | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed | ... | ... | ... | ... | 31 |
| Eavesgutters repaired or renewed | ... | ... | ... | ... | 58 |
| Chimney stacks re-built | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Yards, passages, pavements repaired or renewed | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Ceilings re-plastered or repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Internal walls re-plastered or repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | 46 |
| Windows repaired or renewed... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24 |
| Doors repaired or renewed | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Floors repaired or renewed | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Fireplaces repaired or renewed | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| Sinks renewed | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Repairs to water supply systems | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27 |
| Repairs to staircases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Miscellaneous | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 |

Improvements on Registered Premises

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Canteens... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Factories... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| Shops | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Dairies | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Combustion plants | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| Public Houses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Miscellaneous | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Food vans | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |

Food Premises

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Walls and ceilings decorated | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 29 |
| Washbasins provided | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Hot water service provided | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| New equipment provided | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Sinks provided | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| New floors laid | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| New windows provided | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Improved lighting provided | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| New food preparing rooms provided | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Miscellaneous | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 |

Following representations made by the Health Department a new warehouse for the storage of food was built by one firm at a cost of £4,000.

Drainage, Sanitary Accommodation, etc.

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Drains cleared from obstruction | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 78 |
| Public sewers cleared from obstruction | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23 |
| Drains re-laid or repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 26 |
| Sewers re-laid or repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Soil pipes, waste pipes, etc., repaired or renewed | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |

Water Closets

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Additional W.C.'s provided in other premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| Additional W.C.'s provided in factories | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| W.C. compartments re-built or repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17 |
| W.C. basins renewed | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19 |
| W.C. cisterns renewed or repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18 |

Various

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Offensive accumulation removed | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Additional dustbins provided | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| Dustbins renewed | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 29 |
| Miscellaneous | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Nuisances from animals abated | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| Smoke nuisances abated | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |

**Execution of Work by City Council
in Default of Persons upon whom Notices were Served**

In 11 instances during the year the City Health Department was called upon to execute works in the default of persons upon whom statutory notices had been served. In all cases except one the City Council made orders for the collection of rents until such times as the costs will be recovered. The works carried out, with the costs, were as follows :—

| <i>Address</i> | | | <i>Work</i> | <i>Cost</i> | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-------------------------------|-------------|-----|-------|
| | | | | £ | s. | d. |
| 55, Bulk Road | ... | ... | Remedy of various defects | ... | 105 | 12 6 |
| 59, Bulk Road | ... | ... | Remedy of various defects | ... | 31 | 4 3 |
| 63, Bulk Road | ... | ... | Provision of new W.C. cistern | ... | 4 | 5 0 |
| 63, Bulk Road | ... | ... | Provision of new dust bin | ... | 1 | 13 10 |
| 71, Bulk Road | ... | ... | Remedy of various defects | ... | 8 | 1 0 |
| 39, Avondale Road | ... | ... | Remedy of various defects | ... | 29 | 12 6 |
| 18, Primrose Street | ... | ... | Provision of new dust bin | ... | 1 | 14 10 |

Shops (Shops Act, 1950, Section 38)

There are in the City about 900 shop premises of all descriptions. Many of them are one-man businesses. 59 of those where assistants are employed were inspected during the course of the year.

Offices

Apart from offices attached to factories it was not found possible during the year, because of the pressure of other duties, to make any general inspections of office accommodation.

Camping Sites (other than Military)

Although no camping sites were licensed during the year the inspectors made 78 visits to sites which were either used for periods less than 42 consecutive days or were in use illegally.

Prevention of Air Pollution

On the 1st February, 1954, 3 standard deposit gauges, 3 lead peroxide instruments and a smoke filter were set up to record the comparative degree of air pollution in the City. The deposit gauges are valuable for measuring deposits of ash, grit and other solid particles which, because of their relatively large size, fall fairly quickly. If the emission of these air pollutants from chimneys, etc. increase, the deposited matter from the air will also increase. Also if there is a high rate of emission in a particular area of the City, the deposit of these solid particles will also be high. The total deposits of solids calculated from the gauges in tons per square mile per month in one area can be compared with the total deposits in other areas. Furthermore, the amounts of matter deposited in Lancaster during any month can be compared with amounts deposited in other towns in the same period.

The lead peroxide instruments are used to calculate the amount of sulphur dioxide present in the atmosphere. Most of the sulphur dioxide present in the atmosphere has been emitted from chimneys as a gas. When this gas meets with water or fine droplets of moisture in the atmosphere, it is converted into sulphuric acid. It is this acid in the atmosphere which damages the external surfaces of buildings and corrodes metals and rots fabrics. Its effects are to be seen in the walls of many of the stone buildings in the City. It is also a contributory factor to respiratory troubles in human beings. An example of the latter was the increase in the death-rate in London during the exceptional fog of 1952.

The smoke filter is an apparatus for measuring the daily average concentration of smoke. Air is drawn continuously through a filter paper by a small suction pump which is operated by electricity. The filter paper is changed daily, and the area on which the sample is collected is a circle with a diameter of between $\frac{1}{2}$ in. to 2 in. according to the situation, time of year, and volume of air sampled each day. The volume of air is measured with an ordinary gas meter placed between the filter and the pump. The apparatus is installed in a room in the Public Health Department, but the air which is being tested is drawn from the street outside through a glass tube projecting 3 feet from the wall of the building.

The amount of smoke in the atmosphere varies with the time of day. It is, for example, considerably greater between 7.0 - 9.0 a.m. than is the case between 1.0 - 5.0 a.m. The smoke filter determines, however, only the daily average.

For determining the average concentration of smoke on any one day the stain on the filter paper is matched with a standard set of numbered shades, and the volume of smoke in the atmosphere is calculated in milligrams per cubic meter by the following formula :—

$$\frac{\text{Shade No.} \times 5.78}{\text{Volume of Air}}$$

An instrument for the volumetric estimation of sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere is used in conjunction with the smoke filter.

The total deposited matter calculated in tons per square mile per month from the standard deposit gauges and the amount of sulphur dioxide in parts per 100 million parts of air, as calculated from the volumetric instrument attached to the smoke filter, are given in the table below. This information is not a great deal of use unless comparisons can be made between the condition of the air in Lancaster and that in other parts of the country. The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research does publish a monthly bulletin giving the information to enable these comparisons to be made. The information, is, however, confidential and, in consequence, not for publication. The following, however, gives some indication of the condition of the atmosphere in Lancaster compared with the best and worst districts in the country.

| MONTH | TOTAL DEPOSITED MATTER (SOOT) Tons per Square Mile | | | SULPHUR DIOXIDE Parts per 100 mil. parts of air Monthly Average |
|---------------|---|---|--------------------------|--|
| | Site No. 1 Haverbreaks | Site No. 2 Penny Street (Woolworth's) | Site No. 3 Ridge Farm | Public Health Offices |
| February ... | 8.57 | 14.53 | 6.29 | 11.5 |
| March ... | 7.13 | 14.67 | 6.83 | 6.5 |
| April ... | 5.17 | 10.64 | 8.19 | 3.1 |
| May ... | 8.85 | 14.59 | 11.53 | 2.4 |
| June ... | 9.59 | 12.39 | 8.87 | 3.2 |
| July ... | 7.43 | 13.31 | 13.23 | 3.6 |
| August ... | 9.43 | 12.14 | 8.03 | 3.8 |
| September ... | 9.39 | 16.98 | 13.74 | 4.8 |
| October ... | 10.47 | 16.99 | 9.28 | 4.9 |
| November ... | 11.26 | 21.29 | 15.59 | 7.9 |
| December ... | 14.63 | 19.32 | 15.43 | 5.8 |

In the month of February, 1954, the highest recording of total solids deposited was 205 tons per square mile and the lowest 3.19 tons, against Lancaster's highest recording for the month of 14.53 tons. So far as sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere is concerned, the highest monthly average recorded was 25.3 parts per 100 million parts of air and the lowest 0.07 parts, against Lancaster's average for the month of 11.5 parts per 100 million parts of air.

In June, 1954, the calculated highest total solids deposited from the atmosphere was 140·04 tons per square mile and the lowest 2·92 tons, against Lancaster's highest for the month of 12·39 tons per square mile. The highest calculated monthly average concentration of sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere was 17·9 parts per 100 million parts of air, and the lowest was 0·0, as compared with Lancaster's June average of 3·2 parts per 100 million parts of air.

At the first examination of this information the idea might be formed that the state of the atmosphere in Lancaster is reasonably satisfactory. We cannot, however, afford to be complacent in the matter because when the lowest figures are compared with Lancaster's, there is obviously room for considerable improvement.

The emission into the atmosphere of fine particles of solid matter probably reduces our winter sunshine by about 50%. It tends to increase our rainfall and increases the risk of fogs. It also reduces the incidence of natural light and more so in the winter months when we need it most. The damage to buildings, metals and fabrics by the emission of sulphurous gases has already been mentioned and the effects on human health touched upon. Without proper safeguards the air we breath could become as foul as a sewer.

The Council's statutory powers to deal with the matter are not very strong, but the Government has promised new legislation at an early date. In the meanwhile, factory managements, the City Council, and the general public might be asked to give serious consideration to the matter. The first, by having their combustion plants examined and, if necessary, replaced or modernised. Very often the saving in fuel will pay for the installation of new plant in a short time. This is especially the case at the present time because of the high price of fuels. The recent large increase in the price of coal might result in a cleaner atmosphere and, therefore, be beneficial from this point of view. The City Council should re-examine the type of heating and cooking equipment it proposes to install in its new houses and flats, and especially so when we are at the dawn of the atomic age with all its possibilities for the near future.

The general public should take advantage of the latest knowledge on house heating and insulation, and should be reminded of the scheme for the making of financial grants and the improvement of houses. In this last respect it ought to be borne in mind that no small part of air pollution is caused by domestic chimneys, and about 50% of the heat value of coal with the old fashioned open fire passes up the chimney and is wasted.

During 1954 your sanitary inspectors made 62 half-hour routine observations of factory chimneys for smoke nuisances. No nuisances were recorded, but this does not mean that all the plants were run efficiently, because the definition of a smoke nuisance in the present law is not very helpful towards preventing atmospheric pollution. In addition, 25 inspections of combustion plants were made.

Offensive Trades

Number of premises — 5.

Types of offensive trades :—

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Fellmonger | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Gut Scrapers | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Rag and Bone Dealer | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Tripe Boiler | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |

All the offensive trades in the City were, generally speaking, carried on during the year without serious nuisance in spite of difficulties due to obsolete buildings.

Factories Act, 1937

Details of the number of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors and of the number and type of contraventions found are given in the following tables :—

INSPECTIONS

| Premises | Number on Register | Number of | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | | Inspec-tions | Written Notices | Occupiers Prosecuted |
| Without mechanical power | 214 | 83 | 10 | — |
| With mechanical power | 35 | 19 | 2 | — |
| Other premises | 4 | 7 | — | — |
| TOTAL | 253 | 109 | 12 | — |

DEFECTS FOUND

| | Number of cases in which defects were found | | | | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted |
|--|---|----------|-------------------|-------------------|---|
| | Found | Remedied | To H.M. Inspector | By H.M. Inspector | |
| Want of Cleanliness (S.1) | 2 | — | — | — | — |
| Overcrowding (S.2) ... | — | — | — | — | — |
| Unreasonable tempera-ture (S.3) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4) | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... | — | — | — | — | — |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :— | | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient ... | 6 | — | — | 4 | — |
| (b) Unsuitable or de-fective | 36 | 8 | — | 6 | — |
| (c) Not separate for sexes | — | — | — | — | — |
| Other offences | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| TOTAL | 45 | 8 | — | 11 | — |

Common Lodging Houses

Number on Register—nil.

Houses Let in Lodgings

Without making either another comprehensive housing survey or a specific housing survey for the purpose, it is not possible to say how many houses in the City are occupied by more than one family. When the housing survey was made in 1947 - 48, approximately 2,000 houses in the City were used for multiple occupation. With the building of approximately 1,000 additional new dwellings in the City, the number of sub-let houses must have decreased since 1948. There are, however, in Lancaster, as elsewhere, many of the older larger type of houses which will continue to be occupied by more than one family for several years to come. Special consideration will have to be given in the near future to the condition of these houses, and in particular to the facilities which the Council are to require under Section 11 of the 1954 Act.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.

There are no tents, vans or similar erections used at present for human habitation in the City.

Underground Sleeping Rooms

Our present records which were compiled after the housing survey of 1948 show that no underground rooms were in use for sleeping in Lancaster. The housing survey at present being undertaken for the purposes of Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, might reveal, however, that some underground rooms are now being used for sleeping, although they were not so in 1948.

Should this be the case, the question of making Closing Orders on these parts of dwellings might well arise.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| No. of premises in the district in which filling materials are manu- factured, used or sold | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| No. of Inspections | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| No. of samples taken | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |

HOUSING

General Observations

There is still a net shortage of dwellings, but in view of the number of additional dwellings provided since 1945 (960) and the small increase in population which has occurred since 1939, the real net shortage cannot now be great. Overcrowding in the City, apart from a few new cases which occur from time to time, has been abolished.

There remains two further aspects of housing which call for greater emphasis. They are the clearance of slum property and the repair of mendable houses. There are in the City about 500 dwellings which are eligible either for demolition or closure. The clearance of slums will be the prelude to the redevelopment of the many unhealthy and ugly parts of our City. The preparation of redevelopment schemes should not, however, await actual demolition or even formal slum clearance procedure. Plans for the redevelopment of obsolescent areas might be prepared during the next year or so. It is important that business concerns and other potential redevelopers should know in advance what is to be the new block pattern so that new businesses and extensions to existing businesses can be planned.

After a lapse of about 15 years a start has been made on the systematic inspection of houses with a view, where required, to the service of repair notices. There are approximately 6,000 houses in the City requiring reconditioning, and consequently our present repair programme will take a number of years to complete. The actual time required will depend upon our being able to maintain our staff of Sanitary Inspectors up to its present strength and upon other demands made on their time. It will also depend on the resources available for the carrying out of the repairs. No useful purpose would be served by requiring repair work in excess of that which can be carried out by contractors.

The interpretation of the new standard of fitness for houses contained in the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, is causing difficulties throughout the country, but so far we in Lancaster have not been challenged on our interpretation of the standard. In those cases where notices have been served most of the owners of houses have done their best to comply with them.

The inspection and enforcement of the repair of houses must continue year in and year out because decay is in the nature of things.

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR

| | Prefabricated Houses | | Traditional Permanent Houses | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------|------------------------------|-------|
| | Temporary | Permanent | Houses | Flats |
| (i) By Local Authority | — | — | 72 | 62 |
| (ii) By other Local Authorities ... | — | — | — | — |
| (iii) By other bodies or persons ... | — | — | 44 | Nil |

Inspection of Dwelling Houses During the Year

| | | | |
|----|-----|--|-----|
| 1. | (a) | Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 156 |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | 944 |
| 2. | (a) | Number of dwelling houses (included in sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... | 116 |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | 164 |
| 3. | | Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 45 |
| 4. | | Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 71 |

Remedy of Defects During the Year

Without the Service of Formal Notices

| | |
|---|----|
| Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers ... | 14 |
|---|----|

Action Under Statutory Powers During the Year

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|--|--|--|--|--|-----|
| (a) | Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16, of the Housing Act, 1936 :— | | | | | | |
| | (i) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | | | | | Nil |
| | (ii) | Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service by formal notices :— | | | | | |
| | (a) | By owners | | | | | Nil |
| | (b) | By local authority in default of owners | | | | | Nil |

| | | |
|--|--|-----|
| (b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :— | | |
| (i) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 27 |
| (ii) | Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :— | |
| (a) | By owners | 19 |
| (b) | By local authority in default of owners | 2 |
| (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :— | | |
| (i) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | 1 |
| (ii) | Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | Nil |
| (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :— | | |
| (i) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | Nil |
| (ii) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | Nil |

Housing Act, 1936, Part IV — Overcrowding

During the year 36 cases of overcrowding were rehoused by the City Council and 24 abated the overcrowding themselves by finding other accommodation after they had been warned by the Sanitary Inspectors. Forty-two new cases were brought to light during the year, and at the end of the year the number of houses in the City known to be overcrowded was 10. Further information concerning overcrowding is given in the table immediately below.

| | | | |
|-----|-------|---|-----|
| (a) | (i) | Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | 10 |
| | (ii) | Number of families dwelling therein | 12 |
| | (iii) | Number of persons dwelling therein | 57 |
| (b) | | Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year ... | 71 |
| (c) | (i) | Number of cases of statutory overcrowding relieved during year | 91 |
| | (ii) | Number of persons concerned in such overcrowding ... | 468 |
| (d) | | Number of cases of overcrowding in houses owned by the local authority which have been relieved during the year | 11 |
| (e) | | Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding | Nil |

HOUSING CONDITIONS

Sufficiency of Houses

At the end of 1954, the number of applicants on the Council's waiting list for houses was 1,584. This is obviously not a measure of the net shortage of houses because since 1945 the Council have built 900 permanent houses, yet the population of the City has only increased by approximately 1,900 since 1939.

The most pressing needs at present are the repair of mendable houses and the clearance of slums.

Houses Without Internal Piped Supply of Water, etc.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| (a) | Number of houses which have not an adequate internal water supply | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13 |
| (b) | Number of houses which have no separate water closet or other adequate sanitary accommodation | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 67 |

SANITARY CONDITIONS IN SCHOOLS

Routine inspections of all the schools situated in the City were made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year. Fewer improvements to sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, and washing-up facilities were made in 1954 than was the case in 1953. Much remains to be done to provide adequate sanitary accommodation and washing facilities, etc. in many of the schools.

Information concerning the present sanitary, drinking, and washing arrangements, etc. in the schools is given in Table I below, and the improvements made during 1954 is given in Table II.

TABLE I

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Total number of schools in the City | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 37 |
| Number with fresh water closets only | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 34 |
| Number with trough closets | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Number with unsatisfactory yard surfaces | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Number with inadequate washing facilities | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| Number with inadequate drinking facilities | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |

TABLE II

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Cathedral Juniors and Infants | ... | ... | ... | 14 W.C.'s., 10 washbasins, 1 sink with geyser. |
| Bowerham Infants | ... | ... | ... | 1 washbasin. Hot water to 5 washbasins. |
| Ripley Boys' | ... | ... | ... | New changing room—7 showers, 1 washbasin, 1 urinal. New boiler plant. |

PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT

Forty-one inspections of places of public entertainment were made during the course of the year and a number of visits were made during performances in order to take thermometer readings and otherwise test the state of the air in the auditoriums. No conditions were recorded which would necessitate the City Council taking further action.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

The administration of the Food and Drugs Acts, 1938 - 1950, and Milk and Dairies Regulations.

Milk Supervision and Distribution

During the year Sanitary Officers made a total of 43 inspections of the 9 dairies situated in the City. It was found necessary on occasions to draw attention to contraventions of the Regulations or other unsatisfactory conditions.

The average daily consumption of milk per head of the population increased slightly from 0.63 pints to 0.66 pints.

Average Daily Consumption of Milk

| <i>Description</i> | <i>Daily Consumption in Gallons</i> | <i>Per centum of Whole</i> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Non-descript Raw Milk | 170 | 4.22% |
| Tuberculin Tested Milk | 721 | 18.00% |
| Pasteurised Milk | 1983 | 49.49% |
| T.T. (Pasteurised) Milk | 1034 | 25.81% |
| Sterilised Milk | 99 | 2.48% |
| TOTAL | <u>4007</u> | <u>100.00%</u> |

Average daily consumption in pints per head of population... 0.66 pints

Quantity of Milk Bottled (in gallons)

| | <i>Amount bottled outside the City (in galls. per day)</i> | <i>Amount bottled in the City (in galls. per day)</i> |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Non-descript Raw Milk | 170 | — |
| Tuberculin Tested Milk | 495 | 226 |
| Pasteurised Milk | 1296 | 687 |
| T.T. (Pasteurised) Milk | 307 | 727 |
| Sterilised Milk | 99 | — |
| | <u>2367</u> | <u>1640</u> |

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949
Milk (Special Designation) Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk)
Regulations, 1949

Information concerning the number of licences issued under the above-mentioned Regulations during 1954 is given below :—

Tuberculin Tested Milk : Bottling, 3. Dealers other than bottlers, 60.
 Pasteurised Milk : Pasteurising Plant, 1. Dealers, 67.
 Sterilised Milk : Dealers, 54.

Sampling of Milk for Bacteriological and Biological, etc., Tests

TESTS FOR TUBERCULOUS MILK

Information concerning the number of samples and grades of milk submitted for biological tests for the presence of tubercle bacilli and the results of the tests is given in the following table.

| | Nondescript Raw Milk | Tuberculin Tested Milk |
|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Total Number Taken | 26 | 42 |
| Number Negative | 22 | 33 |
| Number Positive | — | — |
| No Result | 4 | 9 |
| Percentage Positive | — | — |

Sampling of Milk for Good Keeping Quality and for Evidence of Adequate Pasteurisation or Sterilisation

Information concerning the testing of milk for good keeping quality and for adequate heat treatment is given in the following table.

SAMPLES OF MILK TAKEN FOR METHYLENE BLUE AND B.COLI TESTS

| | Nondescript Raw Milk | Tuberculin Tested Milk | Pasteurised Milk | Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) |
|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Total Number Taken ... | 15 | 42 | 50 | 13 |
| Number Satisfactory ... | 4 | 34 | 50 | 13 |
| Number Unsatisfactory ... | 11 | 8 | — | — |
| Percentage Unsatisfactory | 26.66% | 19.05% | — | — |

SAMPLES OF MILK TAKEN FOR PHOSPHATASE TEST

| | Pasteurised Milk | Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk |
|----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Total Number Taken | 50 | 13 |
| Number Satisfactory | 50 | 13 |
| Number Unsatisfactory | — | — |
| Percentage Unsatisfactory | — | — |

SAMPLES OF MILK TAKEN FOR BRUCELLA ABORTUS TESTS

| | Nondescript Raw Milk | Tuberculin Tested Milk |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Total Number Taken | 13 | 33 |
| Number Satisfactory | 13 | 30 |
| Number Positive Whey Agglutination Test | — | 3 |
| Percentage ,, ,, ,, | — | 9.09% |

SAMPLES OF STERILISED MILK TAKEN FOR TURBIDITY TEST

Number taken : 2. Results satisfactory.

Observations on Keeping Quality of Milk

The percentage of samples of milk which failed to pass the good keeping quality test (methylene blue) continues to increase. Why this should be so it is not possible to say because local authorities are no longer responsible for supervising milk production.

In 1953 14.29% of samples of nondescript raw milk failed to pass the test, but in 1954 this increased to 26.66%.

The keeping quality of raw tuberculin tested milk showed a similar decline. In 1953 12.20% of samples taken failed the test, whereas in 1954 the percentage was 19.05.

It is pleasing to be able to report, however, that all samples of pasteurised milk submitted for the phosphatase test were found to be satisfactory.

Bacteriological and Chemical Examination of Ice Cream

Bacteriological Examination

The proportion of samples of ice cream which are placed in Grade 3 continues to increase. For some reason it looks as though ice cream manufacturers are slackening in their efforts to produce their products under the most hygienic conditions.

In 1952 only 2 out of 42 samples were placed in Grade 3 ; in 1953 5 out of 42 samples were so placed, and last year 5 out of 25 or one-fifth of the samples taken were placed in Grade 3.

Most of the ice cream sold in the City is manufactured in other areas, and consequently we have little control over the matter.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

| No. of Samples Taken | Methylene Blue Decolourisation Test | | B. Coli | | Ministry of Health Provisional Grades | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| | Satisfactory | Unsatisfactory | Absent Satisf'ory | Present Unsatisf'ry | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 25 | 20 | 5 | 25 | — | 12 | 8 | 5 | — |

Chemical Examination

During 1954 87·50% of the samples of ice cream submitted for analysis were found to contain more than 7·50% fat. The statutory minimum is 5%.

TABLE SHOWING FAT CONTENT

| No. of Samples Taken | Under 5·0% | 5·0%—7·5% | 7·5%—10·0% | Over 10·0% |
|----------------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| 8 | — | 1 | 4 | 3 |

Bacteriological Examination of Foodstuffs in General

There are many advantages in having a Public Health Laboratory situated within the City. Samples of various kinds of foodstuffs can periodically be examined bacteriologically to ascertain whether or not the food has been prepared, handled and stored under hygienic conditions. If this is not the case, then clearly there is a risk to public health and immediate steps can be taken to deal with the matter.

It is also extremely advantageous to be able to discuss problems which arise from time to time with respect to public health matters generally with a pathologist. It would be a loss to Lancaster therefore if the Public Health Laboratory were to be transferred elsewhere.

The table below gives information concerning the foods submitted for bacteriological examination during 1954, and the results of the examination.

| <i>Sample</i> | | | | | <i>Number Taken</i> | <i>Satis- factory</i> | <i>Not Satisfactory</i> |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Chocolate Sandwich Cake | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | — |
| Meat and Potato Pie | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | — |
| Beef Sausage | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | — |
| Meat Pie | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 | 8 | — |
| Luncheon Meat | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | — |
| Boiled Ham | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 5 | — |
| Marzipan Cake | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | — |
| Cream Horn | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | — |
| Cream Crisp | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 3 | — |
| Tinned Cream | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 5 | — |
| Cream Sponge | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | — |
| Potted Meat Paste | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | — |
| Cream Cake | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| Pressed Mutton | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | — |
| Black Puddings | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | — |
| Roast Pork | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | — |
| Brawn | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 3 | — |
| Cream Doughnut | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 | 5 | 3 |
| Chocolate Eclair | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | — |
| Meringue... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | — |
| Cream Trifle | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | — |
| Cream Slice | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | — |
| Lunch Tongue | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | — |
| Sausage Roll | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | — |
| Liquid Egg | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | — |
| Liquid Egg, Frozen | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 3 | — |
| Dried Egg | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 3 | — |
| Layer Cake | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | — |
| Salad Cream | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | — |
| Chocolate Slice | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | — |
| Swiss Roll | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | — |
| | | | | | — | — | — |
| | | | | | 69 | 65 | 4 |
| | | | | | == | == | == |

Although no pathogenic organisms were cultured from the unsatisfactory samples, they were found to be infected heavily with non-faecal coliform organisms.

Meat and Other Foods

The following are particulars of meat inspection carried out by your Sanitary Officers during the year at the abattoir.

NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED AT ABATTOIR

| | Cattle excl'ing Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs |
|---|----------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|-------|
| Number killed (if known) | 2167 | 933 | 2166 | 12,644 | 8515 |
| Number Inspected | 2167 | 933 | 2166 | 12,644 | 8515 |
| All Diseases Except Tuberculosis : | | | | | |
| Whole carcases condemned | 3 | 35 | 215 | 63 | 53 |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 1416 | | — | 1359 | 361 |
| Percentage of the number ins- pected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis | 46.90% | | 9.93% | 11.25% | 4.86% |
| Tuberculosis Only : | | | | | |
| Whole carcases condemned | 5 | 20 | — | — | 8 |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 604 | | — | — | 179 |
| Percentage of number inspec- ted affected with Tuberculosis... | 20.29% | | — | — | 2.20% |

AMOUNT OF MEAT CONDEMNED BY WEIGHT

| | | | | | |
|-----|------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| (a) | For tuberculosis : | <i>Tons</i> | <i>Cwts.</i> | <i>Qrs.</i> | <i>Lbs.</i> |
| | Cattle | 9 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| | Calves | — | — | — | — |
| | Sheep | — | — | — | — |
| | Pigs | 2 | 2 | 3 | 8 |
| | | 11 | 4 | 3 | 8 |
| (b) | For other conditions : | <i>Tons</i> | <i>Cwts.</i> | <i>Qrs.</i> | <i>Lbs.</i> |
| | Cattle | 15 | 6 | 1 | 17 |
| | Calves | 7 | 4 | 0 | 23 |
| | Sheep | — | 18 | 3 | 11 |
| | Pigs | 3 | 11 | 0 | 4 |
| | | 27 | 0 | 1 | 27 |

Particulars of Other Foodstuffs Condemned During 1954

Two hundred and twenty-nine visits were made to food shops and stores for the purpose of examining food and the following amounts of food were condemned as unfit for human consumption. In all cases the food was voluntarily surrendered and the question of legal proceedings did not arise.

| | | | | | <i>Tins</i> | <i>Tons</i> | <i>Cwts.</i> | <i>Qrs.</i> | <i>Lbs.</i> |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Tinned Goods : | | | | | | | | | |
| Tinned Meat | ... | ... | ... | ... | 370 | — | 17 | 2 | 26 |
| Tinned Milk | ... | ... | ... | ... | 259 | — | 2 | 0 | 15 |
| Tinned Fish | ... | ... | ... | ... | 73 | — | — | 1 | 27 |
| Tinned Fruit | ... | ... | ... | ... | 834 | — | 11 | 2 | 22 |
| Tinned Vegetables | ... | ... | ... | ... | 462 | — | 5 | 3 | 22 |
| Tinned, Miscellaneous | ... | ... | ... | ... | 166 | — | 1 | 3 | 25 |
| | | | | | <u>2164</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>19</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>25</u> |
| Other Condemned Foodstuffs : | | | | | | <i>Tons</i> | <i>Cwts.</i> | <i>Qrs.</i> | <i>Lbs.</i> |
| Bacon | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | 1 | 1½ |
| Butter, Peanut | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | 1 | 14 |
| Cheese | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — | 19 |
| Cocoa | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — | 6 |
| Fish, Fresh | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | 3 | 0 | 15½ |
| Fruit, Dried | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — | 20 |
| Fruit, Preserved | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — | 4¼ |
| Ham | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — | 25¾ |
| Margarine | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | 3 | 21½ |
| Meat, Fresh | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | 1 | 0 | 5¾ |
| Mixture, Sponge | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — | 18 |
| Peas | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — | 22½ |
| Peel, Mixed | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — | 6 |
| Pig Head and Neck | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — | 10 |
| Pigs' Maws | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Pickles | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — | 19¾ |
| Preserves | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | 1 | 4 |
| Rabbits | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| Sauce | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — | 7½ |
| Sago | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — | 12 |
| Spaghetti | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — | 24 |
| Spices, Mixed | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — | 4 |
| Sweets | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| | | | | | | <u>—</u> | <u>10</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>19</u> |

6 gallons Ice Cream
 1 carton Lemonade Tablets (1,280)
 1 Irish Turkey (18 lbs.)
 1 Ewe Carcase and Offal (58 lbs.)
 6 Fish Cakes
 25 Pork Pies
 12 Puff Pastries

Inspection of Food Premises

During the year the following number of inspections were made of the various food premises :—

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Bakehouses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 207 |
| Butchers' Shops | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 90 |
| Meat Stores, Abattoir, etc. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 763 |
| Fish Fryers | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 199 |
| Restaurant Kitchens, etc. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 145 |
| Ice Cream premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 182 |
| Market Stalls | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Other food premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 306 |
| Dairies | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 43 |
| Snack Bars, etc. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 105 |
| Public Houses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Food preparing premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 142 |

General Observations on Food Premises

The table immediately above gives the number of inspections of each type of food premises made during 1954.

Unspectacular but steady progress was made during the year in the improvement of food premises. The table on page 36 gives full details of the improvements made following action by the sanitary inspectors, but the provision of additional washing facilities in 8 premises and hot water service in 6 premises, perhaps indicates more clearly the steps being taken to improve the conditions under which food is handled.

There is still a tendency, however, to expose more food in shops than is necessary for the efficient conduct of the business. Greater use might be made of glass screens and show cases. Some food preparing premises are congested, but limited space prevents improvement in this respect.

Public Abattoir

It is very pleasing to be able to report that with the decontrol of meat supplies in July, 1954, improvements at the public abattoir were put in hand by the City Council.

These improvements include the provision of an adequate hot water service and the installation of wash-hand basins and sinks in the slaughtering hall, etc. A proper supply of hot water has been needed at the abattoir for many years past.

Market Hall

Conditions in the Market Hall still give rise to concern because of the manner in which food is handled and stored, and the lack of washing facilities and a supply of both hot and cold water in the food stalls.

Sampling and Analysis of Food and Drugs for Adulteration, etc.

The following tables indicate the number and type of samples of food and drugs submitted for analysis during the year.

MILK

| Number of Samples Taken | Number of poor quality (not adulterated) | Deficient. Legal proceedings not considered warranted | Obviously Adulterated |
|----------------------------|--|--|--------------------------|
| Formal ... 90 | 9 | — | — |

| | | | <i>Milk Fat</i> | <i>Non-fatty Solids</i> | <i>Water</i> |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Average for the year ... | ... | ... | 3·63% | 8·62% | 87·75% |
| Legal minimum standards ... | ... | ... | 3·00% | 8·50% | 88·50% |

Analysis of Other Food and Drugs

Samples of the following foods were submitted for analysis during the year :—

| <i>Food or Drug</i> | <i>No. of Samples Taken</i> | <i>Not Genuine</i> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Butter ... | 1 | — |
| Brandy ... | 1 | — |
| Cheese ... | 1 | — |
| Cheese Spread ... | 1 | — |
| Cheese Spread, Celery ... | 1 | — |
| Cochineal ... | 1 | — |
| Coffee ... | 1 | — |
| Essence, Coffee and Chicory ... | 2 | — |
| Extract, Meat ... | 1 | — |
| Fat, Compound ... | 1 | — |
| Flour, Self Raising ... | 1 | — |
| Gelatine, Powdered ... | 1 | — |
| Gin ... | 1 | — |
| Ginger, Ground ... | 1 | — |
| Jelly, Table ... | 1 | — |
| Lard ... | 1 | — |
| Margarine ... | 2 | — |
| Milk, Evaporated ... | 1 | — |
| Mint, Garden ... | 1 | — |
| Mustard ... | 1 | — |
| Paraffin, Liquid ... | 1 | — |
| Parsley ... | 1 | — |
| Pepper, White ... | 1 | — |

| <i>Food or Drug</i> | <i>No. of samples Taken</i> | <i>Not Genuine</i> |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Pickles, Mixed | 1 | — |
| Pie Filling, Lemon Flavoured | 1 | — |
| Powder, Custard | 1 | — |
| Powder, Golden Raising | 1 | — |
| Preserves | 3 | — |
| Rice | 1 | — |
| Rum | 1 | — |
| Oil, Castor | 1 | — |
| Oil, Cod Liver | 1 | — |
| Oil, Olive | 1 | — |
| Sauce | 1 | — |
| Sausage, Beef | 6 | — |
| Sausage, Pork | 1 | — |
| Sherry | 1 | — |
| Soda Bi-Carb | 1 | — |
| Squash, Orange | 8 | — |
| Stuffing, Sage and Onion | 1 | — |
| Suet, Shredded | 1 | — |
| Sweets | 1 | — |
| Syrup of Figs | 1 | — |
| Tablets, Aspirin... .. | 1 | — |
| Tablets, Saccharin | 1 | — |
| Vinegar, Malt | 1 | — |
| Whisky | 1 | — |
| Wine, Ruby | 1 | — |
| | <hr/> 64 <hr/> | <hr/> — <hr/> |

WATER SUPPLY

Sources, Purification and Distribution

No alterations in the sources of supply of water were made during the year. The water, which is partly moorland surface water from the Council's own catchment area, and partly from Manchester's Thirlmere supply, is subjected to mechanical filtration and chlorination.

14,100 dwelling houses have an internal piped supply ; one block of 6 houses and another block of 3 houses rely on a common standpipe for each block. One house is supplied by a spring, 1 from a stream, and 1 is reliant on rain water. These latter houses are situated in the rural part of the area, and it has not been reasonably practicable to provide a piped supply.

Sampling of Tap Water

Ten samples of tap water from houses were submitted for analysis and 21 for bacteriological examination. The reports, abstracts of which are given in the following tables, indicate that the supply was satisfactory.

EXTRACTS FROM REPORTS ON CHEMICAL EXAMINATION OF TAP WATER

| Test | 9.2.54 | 9.2.54 | 9.2.54 | 7.4.54 | 7.4.54 | 7.4.54 | 7.4.54 | 10.8.54 | 5.10.54 | 5.10.54 | 5.10.54 |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| Colour ... | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | — | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Turbidity ... | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | — | Nil | Very Slight | Very Slight |
| Oxygen Absorbed ... | 0.027 | 0.036 | 0.031 | 0.004 | 0.004 | 0.004 | 0.044 | — | 0.063 | 0.089 | 0.120 |
| Free and Saline Ammonia ... | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | — | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Albuminoid Ammonia ... | Nil | Nil | Nil | 0.002 | 0.002 | 0.001 | 0.002 | — | Nil | Under 0.001 | Nil |
| Nitrous Nitrogen ... | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | — | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Nitric Nitrogen ... | 0.044 | 0.040 | 0.035 | 0.058 | 0.072 | 0.072 | 0.047 | — | 0.013 | 0.025 | 0.016 |
| Chlorides ... | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.0 | — | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.0 |
| Hardness { Temporary ... | 0.5 | Nil | Nil | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | — | 0.5 | 1.0 | 0.5 |
| Clarke's { Permanent ... | 3.5 | 4.0 | 3.5 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 3.0 | 3.0 | — | 3.0 | 3.5 | 3.5 |
| Method { Total ... | 4.0 | 4.0 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.0 | 3.5 | 3.5 | — | 3.5 | 4.5 | 4.0 |
| Reaction, pH ... | 7.2 | 8.6 | 7.4 | 8.4 | 6.2 | 6.2 | 8.0 | — | 7.2 | 6.4 | 6.2 |
| Solids in Solution ... | 6.0 | 7.0 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 9.0 | 9.0 | 5.0 | — | 8.0 | 7.0 | 21.0 |
| Action on Lead ... | Under 0.01 | Under 0.01 | Under 0.01 | Under 0.01 | Under 0.01 | Under 0.01 | Under 0.01 | — | Under 0.01 | Under 0.01 | 0.01 |
| Fluoride ... | 0.03 | 0.08 | 0.04 | — | — | — | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.08 | 0.09 | 0.09 |

EXTRACTS FROM REPORTS ON
BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF TAP WATER

| Date | Aerobic micro-organisms growing in yeastral agar | Probable No. of coliform organisms per 100 c.c. of water | Ward sample taken | Re- marks |
|-------------|--|--|---|--------------|
| | In 2 days at 37°C. | | | |
| 3.2.54 ... | 2 1 Nil | Nil Nil Nil | Scotforth John o'Gaunt Skerton West | |
| 9.2.54 ... | 1 1 1 | Nil Nil Nil | Scotforth Scotforth Skerton East | |
| 7.4.54 ... | Nil Nil Nil | Nil Nil Nil | Scotforth Park Skerton East | |
| 15.6.54 ... | Nil Nil Nil | Nil Nil Nil | Scotforth Scotforth Park | |
| 12.7.54 ... | Nil Nil 3 | Nil Nil Nil | Scotforth Scotforth Skerton East | |
| 10.8.54 ... | 2 6 1 | Nil 30 Nil | Scotforth John o'Gaunt Skerton West | |
| 5.10.54 ... | Nil Spreading Growth Nil | Nil Nil Nil | Queens John o'Gaunt Skerton West | |

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF SWIMMING BATH WATER

Eleven examples of swimming bath water were submitted for bacteriological examination and extracts from the reports are given below :—

| Date | Aerobic micro-organisms growing in yeastral agar | Probable No. of coliform organisms per 100 c.c. of water | Bath from which sample was taken | Re- marks |
|-------------|--|--|----------------------------------|--------------|
| | In 2 days at 37°C. | | | |
| 3.2.54 ... | Nil | Nil | Corp'n Minor Plunge | |
| 7.4.54 ... | Nil | Nil | Corp'n Minor Plunge | |
| | Nil | Nil | Corp'n Major Plunge | |
| 15.6.54 ... | Nil | Nil | L.R.G.S. | |
| | Nil | Nil | Corp'n Minor Plunge | |
| | Nil | Nil | Corp'n Major Plunge | |
| 12.7.54 ... | Nil | Nil | L.R.G.S. | |
| | 1 | Nil | Corp'n Minor Plunge | |
| | Nil | Nil | Corp'n Major Plunge | |
| 10.8.54 ... | 10 | 8 | Corp'n Minor Plunge | |
| | 752 | 3 | Corp'n Major Plunge | |

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Details of the premises visited, number found to be infested, and information concerning treatment are given in the following tables :—

SURFACE TREATMENT

| | TYPE OF PROPERTY | | | | Agri-cultural (5) |
|---|--------------------------------|---|---|--|----------------------|
| | Non-Agricultural | | | | |
| | Local Au- thority (1) | Dwlng. Houses (inclgd. Council Houses) (2) | All Other (inclgd. Business P'mises) (3) | Total of Cols. (1), (2) & (3) (4) | |
| I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District ... | 22 | 13,659 | 2446 | 16,127 | 41 |
| II. Number of properties ins- pected as a result of : | | | | | |
| (a) Notification ... | 2 | 73 | 51 | 126 | — |
| (b) Survey under the Act ... | 20 | — | 502 | 522 | 34 |
| (c) Otherwise (e.g. when vis- ited primarily for some other purpose) ... | — | — | — | — | — |
| III. Total inspections carried out —including re-inspections ... | 101 | 678 | 1250 | 2046 | 38 |
| IV. Number of properties ins- pected (in Sect. II) which were found to be infested by : | | | | | |
| (a) Rats { Major ... | — | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| Minor ... | 1 | 11 | 16 | 28 | — |
| (b) Mice { Major ... | 1 | 5 | 12 | 18 | — |
| Minor ... | 1 | 49 | 39 | 89 | — |
| V. Number of infested proper- ties (in Sect. IV) treated by Local Authority ... | 3 | 65 | 68 | 136 | — |
| VI. Total treatments carried out —including re-treatments ... | 3 | 65 | 68 | 136 | — |
| VII. Number of notices served under Sect. 4 of the Act : | | | | | |
| (a) Treatment ... | — | — | — | — | — |
| (b) Structural Work (i.e. Proofing) ... | — | — | — | — | — |
| VIII. Number of cases in which de- fault action was taken fol- lowing the issue of a notice under Sect. 4 of the Act ... | — | — | — | — | — |
| IX. Legal proceedings ... | — | — | — | — | — |
| X. Number of " block " control schemes carried out ... | — | — | — | — | — |

SEWER TREATMENT

Total number of manholes in the City : 1439.

Treatment number : No. 6.

Dates of Treatment : No. 6—22.3.54 to 27.9.54.

Bait bases and poison used : No. 6—Bread mash and arsenious oxide.

Number of manholes baited : 576.

Number of manholes showing prebait take : 138.

Number of manholes showing complete prebait take (on one or both days) : 123.

Scheme of baiting used (e.g. consecutive days, or 1st, 3rd, and 5th days) :
Consecutive.

Test baiting : Number of manholes tested—129.

Number of tested manholes showing bait take—14.

Disinfection and Disinfestation of Premises, etc.

Information concerning the disinfection and disinfestation of premises and articles carried out during the year is given in the following tables :—

DISINFECTION (PREMISES)

| Premises Disinfected | | | Single Rooms Disinfected | | |
|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------|-------------------|
| No. of Whole Houses | No. of Ships | No. of other Premises | In Houses | In Ships | In other Premises |
| 28 | Nil | Nil | 32 | Nil | Nil |

DISINFECTION (BOOKS AND OTHER ARTICLES)

| Books Disinfected | | Other Articles | Articles Destroyed | |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Public Library | Private Library | | Books | Other Articles |
| 82 | Nil | Nil | Nil | 22 |

Insect Pest Control

Twenty-nine houses, 11 Council owned and 10 others, 36 other premises and 46 single rooms were disinfected by means of liquid insecticides, and 157 vans of furniture were fumigated with HCN during rehousing operations. Fuller information is given in the table below.

| Type of premises treated | Type of Infestation | | | | | Single Rooms |
|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| | Bugs | Fleas | Ants | Cock-roaches | Others | |
| Corporation Houses ... | — | 10 45 rooms | 1 2 rooms | — | — | 35 |
| Other Houses ... | 7 26 rooms | 1 5 rooms | — | — | 2 10 rooms | 10 |
| Other Premises... | — | — | 11 235 rooms | 25 159 rooms | — | 1 |
| TOTALS ... | 7 26 rooms | 11 50 rooms | 12 237 rooms | 25 159 rooms | 2 10 rooms | 46 |

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

| Acts, Byelaws or Regulations under which proceedings were instituted | Offence | Result | Fine | Costs |
|--|---------------------------------|------------------------|------|-------|
| Public Health Act, 1936. Sec. 83... | Verminous condition of premises | Conviction | £5 | 6/8 |
| Public Health Act, 1936. Sec. 45... | Defective W.C. cistern | } Nuisance Orders made | — | — |
| Public Health Act, 1936. Sec. 45... | Defective W.C. cistern | | — | — |
| Public Health Act, 1936. Sec. 93... | Various defects in house | | — | — |
| Public Health Act, 1936. Sec. 93... | Various defects in house | | — | — |

SECTION “ E ”

PORT HEALTH

LANCASTER PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

The use of the port is mainly confined to a small amount of coastal traffic and similar cargo boats from the Continent. In view of this the more elaborate arrangements required in a larger port are not called for here.

Section I — Staff

TABLE A

| Name of Officer | Nature of Appointment | Date of Appointment | Qualifications | Any other appointments held |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| Robert W. Farquhar | Port M.O.H. | 1.7.52 | B.Sc.(Agri.), M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. | Divisional M.O.H., Health Division No. 2 M.O.H., Carnforth U.D.C. M.O.H., City of Lancaster M.O.H., Lancaster R.D.C. M.O.H., Lunesdale R.D.C. |
| Frederick Shaw | Inspector to Port Health Authority | 1.12.43 | Cert. of R.S.I. & S.I. Joint Board; D.P.A.; M.R.San.I.; A.M.I.S.E. | Chief Sanitary Inspector, City of Lancaster. |

Section II

Amount of Shipping Entering the District During the Year

TABLE B

| Ships from | Number | Registered Tonnage | Number Inspected | | Number of Ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board |
|------------------|--------|--------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| | | | By the Medical Officer of Health | By the Sanitary Inspector | |
| Foreign Ports... | 19 | 6306 | — | 12 | Nil |
| Coastwise ... | 20 | 3249 | — | 3 | Nil |
| TOTAL ... | 39 | 9555 | — | 15 | Nil |

Section III

Character of Shipping and Trade During the Year

TABLE C

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|-------------------------------|--|-----|----------------------|-----|
| Passenger Traffic | ... | Number of passengers INWARDS | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| | | Number of passengers OUTWARDS | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| Cargo Traffic | ... | Principal IMPORTS | Cork, China Clay, Linseed Oil, Zinc White, Bricks, Sand and Gravel | | | |
| | | Principal EXPORTS | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| Principal Ports from which ships arrive :— | | | | | | |
| | Foreign | ... | North Africa, Portugal, France, Holland | | | |
| | Coastwise | ... | ... | ... | Clay Ports, Cornwall | |

Section IV — Inland Barge Traffic

Numbers and tonnage using the district and places served by the traffic Nil

Section V — Water Supply

- (1) Source of supply for (a) the district, and (b) shipping :
City of Lancaster Corporation and Fylde Water Board.
- (2) Reports of tests for contamination :
City of Lancaster supply is examined bacteriologically each month for the City purposes.

Section VI — Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952

Radio Messages

- (a) Arrangements for sending permission by radio for ships to enter the district. (Regulation 13) :
By phone via Seaforth and Port Patrick Radio Stations
- (b) Arrangements for receiving messages by radio from ships and for acting thereon. (Regulation 14(1) (a) and (2).) ... as (a) above

Notifications Otherwise Than by Radio (Regulation 14(1) (b))

Arrangements for receiving notifications otherwise than by radio and for acting thereon Nil

Mooring Stations (Regulations 22 to 30)

Situations of stations, and any standing directions issued under these Regulations Nil

Arrangements for :—

- (a) Hospital accommodation for infectious disease (other than smallpox —see Section VII) ;
Beaumont Hospital, Lancaster, take all cases except smallpox for which special arrangements have to be made with the Regional Hospital Board.

(b) Surveillance and follow up of contacts :

Contacts requiring to be kept under surveillance would be kept on board or accommodated at the Hospital.

(c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles :

Use of steam disinfectors at Beaumont and Bay View Hospitals, Lancaster, and one owned by Morecambe Borough Council.

Appliances and materials are available for the disinfecting of ships which would be done under the supervision of the Port Health Inspector or one of his staff.

Section VII — Smallpox

Name of Isolation Hospital to which smallpox cases are sent from the district :

Cases would be sent to Ainsworth Smallpox Hospital, near Bury.

Arrangements for transport of such cases to that hospital by ambulance, giving the name of the Authority responsible for the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews :

Cases would be conveyed by the Local Authority's Ambulance Service (Health Division No. 2, Lancashire County Council). Ambulance personnel would wear protective clothing and special arrangements would be made for the disinfection of the vehicle and the attendants, etc. Vaccinal state of ambulance personnel at 31.12.54 was as follows :—33 men out of a total of 33 were successfully vaccinated or revaccinated during 1954.

Name(s) of smallpox consultant(s) available :

Dr. D. C. Liddle, Monsall Hospital, Manchester, and others as per Ministry's list of consultants.

Facilities for laboratory diagnosis of smallpox :

The Pathological Laboratory at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary is a recognised laboratory in the list issued by the Public Health Laboratory Service. Specimens of material for diagnosis could be sent either direct to Prof. A. W. Downie at Liverpool, or through the Pathologist at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary.

Section VIII — Venereal Disease

Information as to the location, days and hours of the available facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among merchant seamen under international arrangements, including in-patient treatment and steps taken to make these facilities known to seamen :

Royal Lancaster Infirmary — V.D. Clinics :—

Males and Females, Monday from 5.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.

Males and Females, Friday from 2.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.

In-patient Treatment

If in-patient treatment were required the consultant at the Clinic would make the necessary arrangements, through the Regional Hospital Board.

Section IX
Cases of Notifiable and Other Infectious Diseases on Ships
TABLE D

| Category | Disease | Number of cases during the year | | Number of ships concerned |
|---|---------|---------------------------------|------|---------------------------|
| | | Passengers | Crew | |
| Cases landed from ships from foreign ports — | | — | — | — |
| Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival — | | — | — | — |
| Cases landed from other ships — | | — | — | — |

Section X
Observations on the Recurrence of Malaria in Ships
 No cases.

Section XI — Measures Taken Against Ships Infected With or Suspected for Plague
 None needed.

Section XII
Measures Against Rodents in Ships from Foreign Ports

- (1) Procedure for inspection of ships for rats :
 Port Health Inspector investigates when making his inspection.
- (2) Arrangements for the bacteriological or pathological examination of rodents, with special reference to rodent plague, including the number of rodents sent for examination during the year :
 Submitted to Public Health Laboratory Service, Royal Lancaster Infirmary. Number sent for examination — Nil.
- (3) Arrangements in the district for deratting ships, the methods used, and, if done by a commercial contractor, the name of the contractor.
 No specific arrangements. If need arose, rodent operators employed by Lancaster City Council might be used, or alternatively, if HCN necessary, London Fumigation Co. Ltd., of Manchester would be contacted by telephone.
- (4) Progress in rat-proofing of ships — Not carried out.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

**Prevention of Damage by Pests
 (Application to Shipping) Order, 1951**

Number of Rodent Control Certificates issued — 11.

Result of Inspections — Action Taken by Port Health Inspector
 No unsatisfactory conditions aboard ship were found during the year.

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